SAVE 50% ON DUNB BRIANNA

Safari Britons taken hostage

TUESDAY 2 MARCH 1999

FIVE BRITONS were last night believed to be among 13 West- AND KIM SENGUPTA ern tourists taken hostage by armed rebels while on a mountain gorilla safari in Uganda.

Three people - including a tourist - were killed after 150 rebels, believed to be Rwandan Hutus, stormed three remote campsites on Sunday night, in an apparently co-ordinated attack in Uganda's Impenetrable Forest National Park. None of Yemen and Nigeria. the three was British. It is believed up to 30 Westerners were initially taken hostage but that Michael Cook, said he still had 17 of them, including the French deputy ambassador to Kampala, Anne Peltier, escaped.

Last August four tourists were seized by Hutus, who later released one of them. The other three, including a Briton, have not been heard of since. The incident was one in a recent spate of high-profile kidnap cases involving Britons in places as diverse as Chechnya,

Last night, the British High Commissioner in Uganda, few details about the raids. "We have been told there was an attack on the camp. A num-

ber of people were abducted – 13, some of whom we believe are British nationals," he said. We are working closely with Ugandan authorities to find out more."

A spokesman for the American embassy in Kampala, Virgil Bordeen, said: "We know there are some US citizens but we do not know how many." A source close to the Ugan-

da Wildlife Authority said that ethnic Hutu rebels from neighbouring Rwanda attacked two camps on the edge of the park. He said a game warden who was with the tourists was missing and feared dead.

The Bwindi Impenetrable month that they believed they now been moved to Kampala." Forest, which lies close to the were still alive. border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is home to about 300 mountain gorillas

where they can still be found. Last August, six tourists who had crossed from Uganda into Congo in the midst of that one of the sites, said: "We had country's civil war in order to track the gorillas were also attacked and kidnapped by Rwandan Hutu rebels.

and is one of only two areas

Three of that group, who were in another gorilla habitat near the Virunga volcanoes, are wildlife authorities said last. Our other eight clients have

campsites, in the south-west of Uganda, which are run by at the gummen, camouflaged and least two different operators. Mike Jones, managing director of tour operators Aber-

crombie and Kent, which owns 11 clients of various nationalities staying at the Gorilla Forest camp. There were other Westerners staying at other camps. We think that up to 150 rebels stormed the camps. At our camp, a Kenyan guide and two of his clients were taken.

An employee of the African

The attacks took place at the Pearl Safari tour company, which owns another site, said carrying automatic rifles, attacked its camp and set it ablaze, forcing staff and guests to flee into the dense brush. "The information we have is that seven have escaped from captivity, and we may get more as time goes by," said the employee, who would not reveal his name. "Our people in the camp

> Unconfirmed reports said the three killed included at least one tourist. It is thought

the other two were Ugandans and that one may have been an employee of the state-owned Uganda Wildlife Authority.

The attacks come against the backdrop of continuing ethnic violence in central Africa. The hostage-takers were almost certainly Hutus - the remnants of those responsible for the genocide of 800,000 Rwandan Tutsis in 1994.

After the current Rwandan government took power, many rebel militiamen fled into the Congo, where they were hunted down by an alliance of Rwandan Tutsis, Ugandans and

Ministers

lukewarm

on free care

for elderly

Since then, they have been based in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. There has been continued fighting between the Hutus and the Uganda People's Defence Force along the forested border. with the rebels regularly crossing the border to ambush ve-

`the p

1 batt

hicles and take hostages The Foreign Office said last night that it could only confirm that "a number" of Britons had been kidnapped. It is believed the other Westerners are Americans and French, Last night, no demands had been made by the kidnappers.

Safari danger, page 3



8ft 3in. Cambridge have won for the past six years and are favourites to make it seven. Full report, Sport, page 25

Prime Minister's policy unit and the Treasury believe it

would mean raising too much money in taxation to pay for the long-term care of the better off. Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, announced that there would be a period of consultation on the report, but it is unlikely that it will be accepted in full by the Government. MPs said last night they expected early action by lifting or abolishing the £16,000 limit on assets, which has forced

Treasury dug in their heels

tested payment for living costs

such as food and accommoda-

tion - would be popular but the

the nation of £6bn.

some home owners to sell their houses to qualify for free care. The sense of injustice felt by families forced to sell parents' homes, which is still being enforced by social services departments, led to promises of action by Tony Blair at the

general election. The limit on assets could be raised to about £60,000 - just below the average price of a three-bed semi - or scrapped, at an annual cost of up to £220m, but long-term solutions are more difficult. Mr Dobson told MPs: "This is a complex issue and there are no easy solutions. We have to get this right."

DOWNING STREET and the By COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

yesterday against accepting a The Tories and the Liberal Royal Commission report recommending that long-term Democrats accused the Govcare for the elderly should be ernment of dithering last night. provided free to all, at a cost to The Royal Commission was seen as a way of relieving the The Royal Commission's pain, but its report has left the - mee -per-GOVETI sonal care" for all, with means-

over how to proceed The Treasury and Downing Street favour more means testing, and a note of dissent added by two members of the port said: "To make personal care free for all those who are assessed as need it would make matters worse. In essence, it would transfer initially at least £1.1bn rising to at least £6bn in 2051 from the private to the public purse. This huge addition to the burden on public expenditure would not, however, increase spending on services for elder-

ly people by a single penny." The minority report called for people to be encouraged to take out private insurance schemes to contribute to longterm care, the solution offered by the Tories. Labour MPs said Mr Dobson would be "lynched" if he proposed private insurance. They expect the Government to adopt a combination of measures, including lifting the means-testing threshold on as-

sets and possibly a contributory insurance scheme. The Labour MP Malcolm Wicks, an expert on social policy, said: "It is a big problem and I urge the Government to come

up with a big solution." End to 'injustice' page 6

'Looted Nazi art' in National Gallery

THE NATIONAL Gallery is to study the histories of more Arts News Editor than 100 of its paintings amid fears that they could have been looted by the Nazis. The suspect works include paintings by Picasso, Renoir, Redon, Degas. Van Dyck and Caravaggio.

Garage Co

The National Gallery will be the first gallery or museum in the world to go through its collection to root out paintings with Nazi links, However its director, Neil MacGregor, said yesterday that even if any of the

Single-currency challenge

Blair faces opposition from a

new group of pro-Europeans

Whitehall inspectors may take

over if forces fail to deliver

who are against the euro

Police race reforms

Home P2

INSIDE THIS SECTION

paintings were found to have been looted by the Nazis, they could not be returned to their rightful owners. He said: "In law we can't transfer title. So we can't give a painting back to an individual but the individual might want compensation."

The decision to investigate any painting whose provenance is unclear is the first step by British galleries to determine

Sleaze pays off for Caine

Michael Caine for his role as a

Bafta nominations include

sleazy agent in Little Voice

US extends Gulf attacks

The US has escalated its

aerial war against Iraq

Foreign P11

lies. Other galleries, including the Tate, the British Museum and leading regional galleries are drawing up plans to sift through their collections.

Mr MacGregor said yesterday he thought it unlikely that many, if any, of the paintings would turn out to have been in Nazi hands. But after the "Nazi Gold" revelations of money looted from Jewish families, it was felt necessary to remove

Israel eases back

Foreign P11

Foreign P12

After heavy air raids, Israel

has backed away from further

At least 10 people have died in

Indonesian religious unrest

retaliation against Hizbollah

Riots in Spice Islands

been looted from Jewish fami- 2,400 paintings in the National Gallery, 470 have been acquired since 1933 and there are 120 where we can't be certain about their provenance.

"We are doing this so anyone who might have a claim can see what is in the National Gallery. But we should keep a sense of proportion; my hunch is that only very few works will turn out to be open to dispute."

On the 120-strong list are such works as Woman Drying

£1.3bn purchase for GEC

GEC announced the £1.3bn

purchase of RELTEC, a US

telecoms equipment supplier

Brazilian hero stays away

Inter Milan's Ronaldo will not

be playing against Man Utd

Business P15

Sport P26

whether any works might have any doubt. He added: "Of the Herself by Degas; Ophelia Among the Flowers by Redon and Picasso's Fruit, Dish, Bottle and Violin. The change in attitude to the

> Nazi period over the past couple of years is illustrated by the example of Bosschaert's Flowers in a Vase, acquired by the National Gallery five years ago. Its annual report from the time merely said that the pic-

ture had been bought in Switzerland "shortly after the Second World War".



Redon's 'Ophelia Among the Flowers': Loot fears

INSIDE THE REVIEW

Israelis are pleading with their government not to let Lebanon become its Vietnam

Dumb and dumber? John Walsh: we were wrong to stop making an effort for art Features P8

Comment P5

The artist kept his sketches secret, but what can they tell us that we didn't know?

Arts P10

Underground reading Why the latest free paper for London should succeed Media P12



Today's Television **BACK PAGE**

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Sarwar bribe 'implausible' says minister

A CABINET minister went into BY STEPHEN GOODWIN the witness box at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday to describe how he met Mohammed Sarwar in Downing Street to hear the newly elected Labour MP's response to a bribery allegation.

Nick Brown, who was government chief whip at the time in May 1997, said he had found a News of the World story that Mr Sarwar paid an election rival £5,000 to ease off his campaign "implausible". However, Mr Sarwar's explanation was "too convoluted" for Mr Brown to understand in an afternoon and of such seriousness he handed on investigations to Labour's National Executive

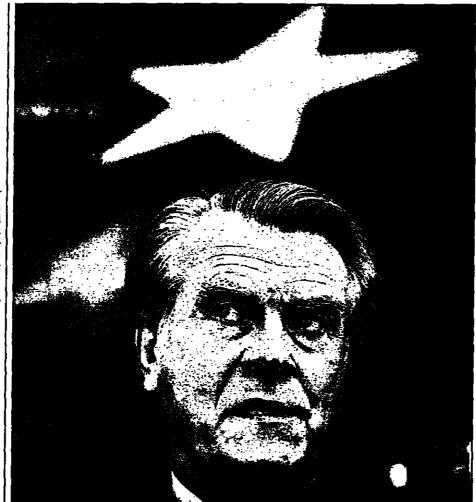
and the legal authorities. The trial of the businessman, who became Britain's first Muslim MP when he held Glasgow Govan for Labour at the general election, is in its sixth week. Mr Sarwar denies charges of electoral fraud and attempting to pervert the course of justice. He

Scotland Correspondent

is accused of having names falsely added to the electoral role, bribing an "independent Labour" candidate, Badar Islam, to pin the blame for the voting irregularities on another fringe candidate and of pretending the £5,000 was a loan.

Mr Brown, now the Minister of Agriculture, told the court be arranged to meet Mr Sarwar at the chief whip's office at 12 Downing Street on 18 May 1997 - the day the story appeared and a little over two weeks after Labour's election triumph. Mr Sarwar was keen to discuss the allegations, he said. 'I wasn't summoning him; we both wanted to discuss them as a matter of urgency."

Mr Brown said he found the allegation that Mr Islam had been paid a "bung" implausible. "It was too late in the campaign to affect the outcome." The case continues.



Lord Owen launching New Europe yesterday in London

Owen and Healey stand against euro

TONY BLAIR'S plans to win public support for British membership of the single currency were undermined yesterday by the launch of a new group of pro-Europeans who oppose

The New Europe research and campaign group, headed by Lord Owen, the former SDP leader, argues that Britain can still enjoy influence in the European Union without ditching the pound. Allies of Mr Blair say he is convinced that Britain will not have "real clout" unless it takes part in monetary union.

In a speech in Milan today, Mr Blair will say that the euro alone will not bring prosperity. but that it could do so if combined with economic reform. At John Voos a meeting of EU socialist par-

Politcial Editor

ties, the Prime Minister will reject German demands for higher taxes and more regulation. He will urge Europe to emulate the United States, saying it has created "real jobs" in hitech industries and not just so-called "McJobs" in ham-

burger bars. Under the slogan "common sense on the single currency", Lord Owen's organisation will seek to influence public opinion so that Mr Blair is deterred from calling a referendum on the euro.

"We are quite unashamedly and unavowedly supporters of the European Union," Lord Owen said. "You can be a committed member of the EU without being a member of

He admitted that it was in Britain's economic interest for the euro to succeed, but said the Government should not be pressured into joining or do so because it was "fashionable". His group would research some of the important unaddressed issues - such as the impact of the euro on mortgages. pensions and the harmonisa-

tion of state benefits. The former Labour foreign secretary said his body had "deliberately shunned" support from Eurosceptics, but if would work closely with the Business for Sterling group, which also opposes the euro. He would share a platform with sceptics if Labour called a referendum.

enviable position of being able to wait and watch others take part in an experiment which

may or may not be a success We accept that the EU is evolving over time so that what might be inconceivable today could become commonplace tomorrow."

The campaign group's other leading lights include Lord Healey, the former Labour chancellor, Lord Prior, the former Conservative cabinet minister and ex-GEC chairman, and Martin Taylor, the former Barclays Bank chief executive. It also includes academics and journalists, with a heavy presence from The Times, whose parent company is chaired by Rupert Murdoch.

Lord Prior, a staunch pro-European, said he had "torn myself away from my former friends" because the euro was a supremely important issue. He did "not want to be associated" with Tories who were "anti-EU".

He criticised the Government's policy of preparing for entry without having decided to join as "almost the worst of all worlds". He added: "It ought to try to get on with it or forget

Pro-Europeans hit back at the new group last night. Giles Radice, chair of the European Movement, said its members were "deluding themselves. They are presenting a false choice to the people of Britain."

Colin Sharman, chair of accountancy firm KPMG International, said British business could not hope to influence European affairs outside the euro. "Being in the EU The group's launch docu- but not being in the euro is ment said: "We do not say roughly the equivalent of being 'never' but for now we are in the half-pregnant," Mr Sharman

Hamish McRae, Review, page 4

tral situation Scotland, especially the west, will have showers on Monday sing, failing as show over the mountains; but there will be fewer of them in ditermion. Eastern Scotland will have plenty of sunshine and just a small er iss. Notthern lestond will have scattered showers turning to steadier rain Wales and much of England will start dull and wet, and southern counties why wet and windy. Elsewhere it will brighten up but rain is going to return

SW England, Channel Is, S Wales; Mid but acreast and viet with hill and containing patches. Dry for a while but rain will return. Windy with a fresh to shore south-westerly breeze. Max temp 10-12C [50-54F] of Wales. Midtands. E Anglia, E England, NE. Cont N & WW England, Lake Dist, Isla of Mians A dull, wet start from mild, brighter and direr with occasional sorry spells but shift the chance of a shouter or two Steader rain seturing fater Steader westerly winds. Max temp 8-11C [46-52F]

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles, N Isles: Biref bright or samy spells, hid susteems showers, six w over the mountains, Medicane, locally fresh, west to porth metricular, Max (emp 5-80 (+1-46F)).

SE & NE Scatland, Editaburgh, Aberdeen: Chance of a shower or two but becoming mostly dry with spells of sunshine. Moderate west to north-west OUTLOOK Roin will spread north on Tresday across the whole count can the Scittish Mountains but it wall temperatily become Roin acro mee has southwards on Wednesday as colder es in from the north, worth, eee Footband.

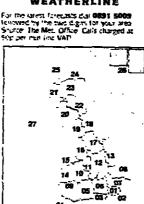
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SUN & MOON

WEATHERLINE



RAIN OR SHINE...

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11 52

IT MAY not have felt like it in some parts of the country but Britain has enjoyed its tenth officially warm winter of the While much of Europe has

past 12 years. been dogged by record low temperatures, average winter temperatures in England and Wales reached 5.3C (41.4F) easily surpassing the 3.6C (38.5F) average for 1961-90. However, northern Scotland suffered one of its snowiest Februarys since the early 1970s.

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

'Secretary from hell' convicted

A WOMAN who hounded one of By GARY FINN the country's leading criminal psychologists with hundreds of threatening phone calls was convicted yesterday under new anti-stalking laws. Gillian Hartshorne, 50,

referred to in court as "the secretary from hell", bombarded 54-year-old Professor David Canter of the Centre for investigative Psychology at the University of Liverpool and his former research assistant, Dr Samantha Lundrigan, 28, with more than 500 threatening and abusive calls after she was not given a permanent job.

Hartshorne, of Great Sutton, Cheshire, faced three charges under anti-stalking laws.

Yesterday, a jury at Liverpool Crown Court found Hart shorne, who has two children,

guilty of three counts of causing fear of violence. Sentencing was adjourned until 15 March for pre-sentence and psychiatric reports by Judge Duncan who said: "These two folk have been made the subject of real unpleasantness but ... mercifully, no one has been hurt in a physical sense.

In messages left on his home answering machine, she said: "You are responsible for my death because I cannot cope with what lies ahead. I want you to know you should be charged with manslaughter or murder

... all because you wanted a young department. I hate you. You will be sacked. Understand. Sacked. I'm going to ensure you are sacked."

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IPLUS DON'T YOU IST LOVE BEING IN **DNTROL?** HOW BITISH GAS TURNED MOCENTRICA

THE INDEPENDENT

ANGLE BRAN VINER

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hay or may not be a cooper We accept that the Fit sevels ing over time so that what might be inconcernable today could become commonplace The companies groups other

reading lights include Lord Healey, the former Labour chargellor, Lard in a the former Conservative shape minister, sunt dareit in cities man and Marin To storing over Barcha's Rang that correct trabagatantes dennica and journal to addi-



'Gorilla trail that strayed into Africa's violent heart

THEY HAD gone to watch a rare BY KIM SENGUPTA, species of animal persecuted almost to extinction, and instead ended up becoming victims themselves in the violent heart

The people who travel to see the mountain gorillas of Uganda bristle if they are called tourists. They see themselves as serious travellers with an empathy for nature. To prove this they are prepared to pay more than £2,000 each to catch a glimpse of the elusive creatures in an area called the Im-They also accept that they

have to travel to some of the most inaccessible parts of the continent remote, inhospitable and often dangerous.

The odyssey to see the majestic silverbacks and the fight for their conservation by the American naturalist Diane Fos-

ANDREW BUNCOMBE AND



sey - celebrated in the acclaimed film Gorillos in the Mist starring Sigourney Weaver -- has helped to promote a fascination for the animals But just as the film ended in

murderous violence - when Fossey was murdered by poachers - the lingering strife of the Rwandan civil war has made travel to the Impenetrable Forest a dangerous if not foolhardy adventure.

The defeated Hutus of Rwanda have retreated into neighbouring Congo and the backcountry of Uganda, striking out at will, to cause terror and bring attention to their unpopular cause.

Last August, in the very first month of renewed fighting in the borderlands, three visitors were kidnapped: Englishman Douglas Kear, 66, originally from Gloucestershire but now living in New Zealand, and a Swedish couple. They have not been seen since. The authorities say, perhaps more in hope than expectation, there is still a good chance they are alive.

The Hutu militia know that a sure way to hit the economy of a Third World country dependant on tourism is to hit that industry. And the latest attack, which killed three as well as leading to the taking of 13 hostages, is sure to do that.

The attack took place at three camping sites on the northern edges of the Bwindi National Park, the main starting point to see the 320 or so mountain gorillas that still remain in the park along the mountain slopes.

One tourist and two Ugandans were killed as the raiders, wearing camouflage and carrying automatic rifles, burst into the sites. As the raid continued, several buildings and safari vehicles were burnt. As the flames took hold many of the tourists managed to flee into

It is thought that initially up the eastern Congolese town of Rwandan and Ugandan insurto 30 Western tourists were taken hostage but that 17 of them, among them Anne Peltier, the French deputy ambassador to Uganda, managed to

These people were yesterday being flown back to Kampala, the Ugandan capital, where they were receiving medical attention. It is not known when they will be returned to their home coun-

The last abduction has not led to a ransom demand, but rather the demand that the rebels' cause should be publi-

The attack was just the latest in a series of violent incidents in the area. Last week the Hutu rebels were blamed for murdering seven local people travelling in a convoy between Goma and Rutshru on the border with Uganda. The kidnapped tourists have

Displaced Rwandan Hutus await aid distribution at a camp near the Ugandan border. Ethnic rivalries still fuel the regional war John Voos

and bitter war which has been raging in Central Africa for many months. The Hutu abductors are the descendants of the interathe Rwandan genocide in 1994

that wiped out 800,000 Tutsis. Hutus were driven out of Rwanarmy backed by Uganda. The Rwandan rebels have

forged an alliance of convenience with Congolese president, Laurent Kabila, who is fighting his own rebellion.

In turn Rwanda and Uganda have sent troops into the for the BBC. Congo to assist the anti-Kabi-

It is, by any standards, a vi-

cious war. In a recent outburst earlier this month Hutu rebel become embroiled in a complex leader Antoine Sezoya Ngabo said: "They (the Tutsis) murdered all of our clever people our students as well as our tribesmen. It is not possible to hamve militias who conducted trust these people. We can never trust them.

But the danger does not Following the genocide, the stop travellers from the west the World Wide Fund for Nastill flocking there in pursuit of ture, who helped establish the da into the Congo by a Tutsi-led the rare wildlife, and amongst park. "It is very dense and difthe tourists are numerous

The actor and comedian Stephen Fry is just the latest high-profile visitor to the gorillas in their mountain home, in this case to make a programme

Another visitor is the former la rebels and to fight against ITN newscaster, Sandy Gall,

who spent several nights at The park itself - 320 square s rulin at ther

t can b

kilometres of dense vegetation at altitudes of 4,000 to 8,000 feet in the far south-west corner of the country - is remote and impenetrable, hence its name. "It extends to the Congo

border, so it would be easy for people to slip over and slip back," said Alan Hamilton, plant conservation officer of ficult to walk around in, although there are tracks.

"The people who know it best are a group of pygmies called the Batwa who live on the edge of it. They have an intimate knowledge of the forest and if these people who have been kidnapped are being kept in it, they could find them."

ary from Prince Charles chews over beef-on-bone row

is hotels

Shuttle flights. No-one departs more frequently.

PRINCE CHARLES and the Sec- By COLIN BROWN AND retary of State for Wales, Ahm

Michael, were caught up in the controversy over beef on the bone vesterday after eating a slice of sirloin at an event to pro-The two men were promoting Welsh beef and lamb in

spokesman

south Wales when they were offered a platter of sirloin, freshly carved in front of them. Both accepted, with Prince Charles later declaring it to be Neither seemed perturbed by the apparent flouting of gov-

mote meat.

ernment guidelines, which banned the sale of beef on the bone more than 12 months

But last night an embarrassed spokesman for Mr Prince Charles discussing beef with chefs Trevor Jones (left) and James Martin PA Michael was forced to defend

the Welsh Secretary's actions. "Mr Michael was offered a platter of beef and he took a piece. If he did not know it was beef on the bone what can you do?" said a Welsh Office

Hotel, Golf and Country Club near Newport, decided to serve up a dish it claims it would never offer its paying customers was not clear. The hotel hosting the Welsh beef and lamb promotion - is not planning to put it on the menu just

beef to the Prince [and Mr Michael] as a present. We did not think it would cause all this

fuss," said Steve Howell, spokesman for the hotel. "We are certainly not making a stand on the topic. Obviously we abide by the regulations on

customers." The Government banned the sale of beef on the bone in December 1997 after scientists Quite why the Celtic Manor said there was a theoretical chance that nerve ganglions attached to the bone could harbour the agent that causes

> (CJD) in humans. The ban, retained last month on the advice of the Government's chief medical officer, is due to be reviewed again in six

Creutzfeldt Jakob disease

Prince Charles, who also used the occasion to repeat his opposition to genetically mod-

ified foods, told guests at the promotion that the meat he had tasted was delicious.

"I am sorry that I got there before you did," he joked. this. We don't sell it to our "Shortly, you will be able to taste it like I did. It's absolutely delicious.' A spokeswoman later said while the Prince had known he

was going to be offered beef, he had not realised it would be cooked on the bone. "He does not want to get

drawn into the politics of this," she added.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture said: "The general rule is that the providers or caterers could face possible prosecution."

Lynda James, of Welsh Lamb and Beef Promotions,

serving the Prince beef on the

"It's only against the law if

we sell it to the customer. The hotel did not sell it to us and we did not sell it to the Prince." That may not be the case. A

spokeswoman for the environmental health department of Newport borough council said last night it was investigating the incident.

Downing Street played down the incident, saying that Mr Michael had inadvertently eaten beef cooked on the bone.

"He didn't know it was taken from a cut that had been on the bone. He would not have eaten it if had known," said the Prime Minister's official spokesman.

"This event was to promote Welsh beef. It seems they have

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ensual, glamorous, hip. It's how some high fashion followers would describe the delights of wearing a mink coat. Every year, tens of thousands of mink are killed on fur farms throughout the UK. In the wild; mink establish territories of over a kilometre, where they climb, dive and swim. On farms, they are confined in rows of tiny cages. In such restricted conditions mink show abnormal behaviour. There are instances of fur-biting and even self-mutilation. We at the RSPCA believe that this is cruel. Nevertheless, there are still those who would kill for a real mink coat. The preferred method of slaughter on most farms is to gas the mink. On March 5th, the MP Maria Eagle's Bill to

ban fur farming in the UK will be debated in the Commons. A new opinion poll revealed that 74% of the British public support a ban on fur farming. If you're part of this majority, please write to your MP urging them to attend the House on March 5th and to vote in favour of the Bill. And let's make the needless suffering of animals for fur a trend that will never be fashionable again.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE RSPCA ON 01403 223 284.

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Racism: Home Secretary launches inquiry into Lawrence leaks and tells chief constables to end prejudice, or else

Straw warns police over race reforms

CHIEF CONSTABLES who fail to BY JASON BENNETTO introduce race relations reforms will risk having their forces run by government inspectors, the Home Secretary warned yesterday.

The threat by Jack Straw followed the publication of a critical report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, which found many police chiefs were refusing to make race a priority. The study, of all 43 forces in England and Wales, found 16 – nearly 40 per cent – did not have a community and race relations strategy in place and criticised many chief officers for failing to take a lead.

Mr Straw said that ultimately he could use the "power of intervention", which would involve sending in hit squads of inspectors to run part, or all, of any force that refused to make any improvements.

"I hope it will not come to that, but it does tend to concentrate the mind," he added.

Ministers are becoming increasingly frustrated that a significant number of chief constables appear to be paying lip service to reforms in race relations, rather than bringing about meaningful change.

Mr Straw said he was "disappointed" at the report's finding that many police chiefs had failed to respond to calls for an urgent rethink on race relations issued in an HMIC report Winning the Race published in 1997. Yesterday's study examined 15 forces to discover what progress was being made.

Inspectors said the failure to introduce reform "signifies... that community and race relations issues remain peripheral

... for many forces." As revealed in The Independent on Saturday, the HMIC report also praises the Metropolitan Police - which last week was condemned for "perniCrime Correspondent



racism in Sir William Macpherson's report on the Lawrence case – for its strong leadership on race. Also praised were South Wales, West Yorkshire, Bedfordshire, and the Trinity

Road division in Bristol. Inspectors found a minority

FORCES OF CHANGE

THE FIVE forces with the worst record were Cumbria, which was implementing only seven of HMIC's 27 reforms, North Yorkshire (10). Cambridgeshire, City of London (both 11). Surrey and Avon and Somerset (both 14).

The five with the best record were Leicestershire (26), Greater Manchester, Lancashire (both 25). Suffolk (24), Sussex, and West Yorkshire (both 24).

of officers were still using racist language and behaviour towards colleagues and that senior officers were often failing to treat complaints by black and Asian officers seriously. They found "in isolated incidents, [managers] 'turning' the complaint against them."

"It stretches credibility to accept that the use of such language or behaviour does not surface in their dealings with the public," said the report.

It said that retaining ethnic minority officers was a "cause fer concern" and criticised the fact that more than a quarter of the forces did not monitor whether ethnic minority staff had left the service.

Promotion of ethnic minority officers was identified as a continuing problem, with no black or Asian graduates being chosen for a national acceleration scheme for junior ranks in the past three years.

The inspector found that officers who express racist, sexist or homophobic behaviour are currently not given negative marks during promotion exams. The police examination board have promised to change this practice.

A third study will be carried out to monitor police performance on the race issue.

John Newing, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers and Chief Constable of Derbyshire, said: "We are pleased to see that HMIC has recognised the good work going on ... there is, however, a great deal of work yet to be done to ensure that this success is repeated around the country."

Norman Bettison, the Chief Constable of Merseyside, annouced yesterday that he had written to all his force's 6,600 staff and launched a task force to carry out a "root and branch"



Independent inquiry into leaking of Lawrence report

JACK STRAW appointed an in- BY COLIN BROWN dependent investigator yesterday to carry out an inquiry into the leaking of the Stephen Lawrence report.

The Home Secretary said the leak was "a serious matter" that he "thoroughly deplored". He promised the investigation would be completed as quickly as possible.

The leak - and subsequent injunction obtained by Mr Straw - caused anger ahead of the publication of the report. Police officials claimed it had been leaked to damage Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. DownChief Political Correspondent

will be identified for the leak but the inquiry is being used by the Conservatives to continue to put pressure on Mr Straw over his handling over the Lawrence report. "We want this cleared up quickly, and we are determined to keep Jack Straw on the run."

said a Conservative insider. Last night, Sir Norman Fowler, the Conservative home affairs spokesman, tabled five Commons questions. They covered the terms of reference for the inquiry, whether it will question ministers, whether staff ing Street has already ex- and officials who had access to for a statement on Friday and policy review of race relations. pressed doubt that any culprit the report will be interviewed, they were still demanding to

whether the investigator will have the power to question the original leak. those with access to the report outside the government, and what discussions occured be-

junction to stop publication. Sir Norman said the leak was part of a litary of blunders surrounding the report that he blamed on Mr Straw, culminating in the Home Secretary's decision to leave his junior minister Paul Boateng to answer questions from MPs on Friday while he went to the south of France for a weekend break. Sir Norman said it was

the Conservatives who called

tween ministers before the in-

Ministers will be questioned about whether they were responsible for leaking the 333page report. But Mr Boateng has told friends that officials can .prove he was not responsible.

Copies of the report were kept under lock and key at the Home Office before it was published. Mr Boateng was logged in and out by a Home Office civil servant as having read the report on Thursday, 18 February, but the report of the leak said that it was read the day before.

Leading article, Review, page 3 Review, page 3 reopened.

Menson 'chased by men in car'

BY JASON BENNETTO

UP TO four racists are believed to have chased a black musician before setting light to him. Scotland Yard murder squad detectives believe.

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The development in the twoyear-old investigation into the murder of Michael Menson follows new witness statements that three or four men in a car were involved in the attack.

Mr Menson, 30, a former musician and the son of a Ghanaian diplomat, was attacked by a racist gang who poured lighter fluid on him before setting him alight in north

Police are thought to be close to making a series of arrests in the case, which was not classified as a racist attack until a year after it took place.

Mr Menson died 16 days after the attack. At first police treated the death as suicide and believed he had set fire to himself, partly because he had suffered from mental problems.

The police were severely criticised for failing to take a statement from him despite him saying he had been the victim of a racist attack. New witnesses have told of-

ficers from the Metropolitan Police's new race crime unit that they saw three to four people "contact" Mr Menson in Kendall Parade, Edmonton, close to the place - Silver Street - where he is believed to have been assaulted in January 1997. The men may have spoken or shouted abuse at Mr Menson. Police believe the gang may

have followed, or chased, their victim into the nearby street before attacking him. Yesterday they appealed to anyone who may have seen Mr Menson either late in the evening of 27 January 1997 or in the early hours of the following day, and a small dark car, possibly a Austin Metro, in the same area to come forward.

In September last year a jury at an inquest returned an "unlawful killing" verdict. After David Aaronovitch, the inquest the case was



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Welfare of elderly: Royal Commission calls for end to 'injustice' of forcing better-off pensioners to sell their homes 'Scandal' of paying for care in old age

THE INJUSTICE faced by old By JEREMY LAURANCE people who find themselves impoverished at the end of their lives by having to pay thousands of pounds for their care Royal Commission on Long

Term Care said yesterday. While patients with cancer get free NHS care in hospital, others with Alzheimer's disease, looked after in nursing homes, have to pay an average of £337 a week. This inequity must be removed by making all personal and nursing care free, whether provided in hospital or else-

ELLEN WHITE always thought

she would be able to leave her

died. Instead, she now faces

having to sell the bungalow

where she lived for more than

20 years to pay the costs of stay-

widow, broke her hip. She spent

time in hospital and it was then

decided her own home was no

kitchen and the bathroom were

walking frame she now re-

a convalescent home and from

there to the Montrose care

shire, on 4 December. Her bun-

very distressed when I think

about it. It's heart-breaking,"

she said. She had already made

a will leaving the property to

benefit her son, Michael, and

daughter, Avril, her six grand-

children and seven great-

make a new will. Will there be

anything left to leave? They go

on taking the money for my

keep until the money is used up.

"Of course, now I've got to

grandchildren.

broker to do so.

"I feel pretty awful about it,

galow is now to be sold.

Last year, Mrs White, a

ing in a care home.

home to her children when she

Health Editor

The 12-member commission, established in December 1997 while others pay nothing is a by Frank Dobson, the Secretary scandal that must be ended, the of State for Health, in fulfilment of a manifesto commitment, says the question of how the costs of care in old age are to be met cannot be ducked. Sir Stewart Sutherland, the chairman, said: "We have found the current system to be confusing and complex, creating real fear among those approaching old

mediately, rising to more than £6bn by the middle of the next century, has been privately described by ministers as "unaffordable". The Prime Minister's policy

unit and the Treasury believe it would mean raising too much money in taxation to pay for care of the better off. But ministers have hinted that they may be prepared to raise the threshold for savings, currently £16,000, above which old people have to pay for their care. Lifting the threshold to £60,000, an alternative measure recommended by the commission if

posal, estimated at £1.1bn im- the Government balks at mak- the property-owning middleing nursing care free, would classes that ought to be concost £175m.

Mr Dobson said he would look carefully at the commission's proposals but made no commitments. He told MPs: This is a complex issue and there are no easy solutions. We have to get this right."

The commission was split over the issue of free nursing care with two members producing a "dissenting" note. David Lipsey, public policy editor of The Economist, and Joel Joffe, chairman of Oxfam, argued that it would involve the centrated on the most needy.

Mr Lipsey said yesterday: "The majority's proposals would mean higher tax bills and not a single penny of that would go on better care for elderly people. It would all be swallowed up in a new subsidy to better-off people and their heirs."

Sir Stewart countered that the commission's proposals would add only 0.3 per cent to the 2.2 per cent spent from taxation on long-term care. This would rise to 0.4 per cent in the long term. "Our proposals will

the state to protect the inheritance of the elderly as well as caring for them, given that children are no longer inclined to look after their parents in old age. The majority on the commission argued it was unjust that people who had saved all their lives should have their savings taken from them in their last months or years because of increasing disability and ill-

nothing got their care free. The agony aunt Claire Rayn-

ness, while those who saved

A central question raised by sion, said: "There is enormous the commission's 200-page reamong those over 70 the commission's 200-page report is whether it is the duty of who have paid all their lives for what they regard as National Insurance and who find when it comes to the crunch that the state is not there to pay for their care. It cannot be fair and no government in its right mind is going to alienate so large a proportion of the population and their children."

The minority argued that requiring the state to protect people's inheritance imposed an impossible burden and that there was an urgent need to provide more help to enable people to remain in their own homes.

one in five men over 65 will need residential care at some time in their lives, the report says. A married couple would need to save £85,000 to meet the cost of a residential home for each of them for three years. There are 480,000 old people cared for in homes, 157,000 of

them in nursing homes, of whom 42,500 are paying for themselves. An estimated 40,000 people a year have to sell their homes to pay for their care. Total spending on the care of

the elderly currently £11.1bn, is estimated to rise to betwee £28bn and £75bn by 2051.

NEW IDEAS FOR OLD

Main recommendations of the Royal Commission on Long Term Care are as follows: The costs of long-term care to be split between the "hotel" element and

personal care. Personal care to be available free after assessment according to need and hotel costs to be means tested. A National Care Com-

mission should be established to monitor trends and oversee standards in old people's homes. The value of an elderly

person's home to be disregarded under the means test for up to three months after admission to residential

Consideration to be given as to whether every new resident may be able to return home. More care to be given to people in their own homes and more services to be offered to carers.

National Health Service and social services budgets to be pooled together with budgets for housing aids and adaptations.



Ellen White at the care home she moved to after breaking her hip. She considers the current system a 'dreadful sin'

After a spell in hospital last year, the social workers suggested that Mrs Sheinwald, now 54, should go into care. "They said, 'It's about time you social security payments, his let go. Your health is suffering.' own income was left at just £61 I said fine," Mr Sheinwald, 61, a week, making it impossible for said. But in his bewilderment him to pay the mortgage on I don't think there will be any- at the time, he failed to appre-

ciate what this would mean for sold the house and most of the west London. But now the so-terday. "I've lost my business, both of them. Without his wife's profit went to clear debts in- cial security department has my house that I worked very their four-bedroom home. He dential home in Harrow, north- less," Mr Sheinwald said yes- just manage to survive, they that money going?"

curred during the time he had made a claim on his flat, saying not worked. He bought a small half belonged to Mrs Sheinwald two-bedroom flat to be able to and should be used to pay her live near his wife in her resi- care fees. "I could be home-

hard for and my wife. I've paid

a very high price. "If someone gives up their

David Rose shouldn't be abandoned.

"The Royal Commission estimates it would cost £1bn a year to pay for this kind of care. Carers save the Governlife to look after someone and ment £34bn a year. Where is

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Clean up and cut prices, water companies told

gramme of water quality improvements was announced by the Government yesterday. The £8bn package will at last mean the end of the outdated Victo-

rian sewerage system. A vast schedule of engineering and renovating works will aim to end the depositing of sewage on beaches and riverbanks, clean up bathing water to the highest standards achievable, make further improvements in drinking water and river quality and protect sen-

sitive environmental sites. "This new programme will banish the last vestiges of the Victorian sewerage systems into the history books," said Geoff Mance, the Environment Agency's director of water management. "It will at last set

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY Environment Correspondent

environmental standards fit for

the 21st century." The water companies of England and Wales will be expected to fund it between 2000 and 2005 - at the same time cutting water bills by an average of 10 per cent, and keeping prices stable thereafter.

The "double whammy" on the companies was spelt out yesterday by the Environment minister Michael Meacher. "We're very concerned that prices have rocketed over the last 10 years since water privatisation, with an increase in real terms of about 35 per cent," he said. "It is time to give

back to the consumer." The combination of clean-up

IN BRIEF

Doctor denies five murder charges

charges at Manchester Crown Court. Dr Harold Shipman,

not guilty to four other charges of murdering patients. His

trial is expected to begin on October 4 and to last between

Pupil spikes teacher's cup of tea

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl has been suspended after spiking a

science teacher's drink with a toxic chemical. The pupil

began a class at Irlam and Cadishead Community High

School in Greater Manchester.

Dog eats drugs evidence

put cooper sulphate in Susan Ashcroft's cup of tea as she

A STRAY dog ate cannabis plants police were keeping for

evidence. An officer put the dog in a kennel at Bath police

station, not knowing the drugs unit had stored the plants

loyalist paramilitaries yesterday at the home of a Catholic family near Coalisland, Co Tyrone. They carried out a controlled explosion on the device, which was inside a sweet tin left on the window sill of the house.

there. The mongrel, who was discovered behaving in a

peculiar manner, was unharmed by his unusual meal.

Sweet tin bomb on window sill ARMY EXPLOSIVES experts defused a pipe bomb left by

Snail stops £12.5m golf course

has been found on the site in Co Clare, Ireland.

A SNAIL could force plans for a £12.5m golf course to be

abandoned. The very rare Vertigo Augustion, 2mm long.

53, from Hyde, Greater Manchester, has already pleaded

A FAMILY doctor accused of murdering 15 women

patients pleaded not guilty yesterday to five of the

two and three months. The court has not been set.

ernment expects from the 29 companies during their next five-year business period, for which price levels will be set later this year by the water regulator, Ian Byatt. The Govern-Byatt it thinks the companies

can afford to do both.

The companies begged to differ yesterday. Pamela Taylor, chief executive of their trade association, Water UK, said the double pressure might lead to cuts in investment programmes and delays in improvement work. But she stressed: "We want to carry out these environmental improvements. Cleaner water not only helps wildlife, it makes the water in-

dustry's life easier, too."

sewage treatment for all but the smallest discharges. Every coastal discharge for a community of 2,000 people or more must be treated. Unsatisfactory sewer overflows, which enment is in effect telling Mr able solids to escape during storms, will be improved in an accelerated programme that will see more than 6,000 - more

than 80 per cent - fixed by 2005. The Government hopes that, by the end of 2005, 97 per cent of British beaches will comply with basic EU bathing water standards - as high as could be realistically achieved, Mr Meacher said - and 55 per cent will meet the higher "guideline" standards. It hopes to bring the proportion of rivers meeting the water quality objectives set for Of greatest significance is .them from 82 to 90 per cent.

THAT ARE SOSO

Disgraced financier jailed for dole fraud

THE FORMER financier Peter Clowes was jailed yesterday for four months after he was convicted of making false claims for jobseeker's allowance.

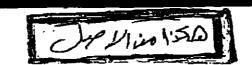
Clowes, 56, sentenced to 10 years after the collapse of the investment company Barlow Clowes in 1992, had denied claiming £1,800 in benefits when he was working over a four-month period from December 1996. The jury at Mold Crown Court in north Wales took three hours to find Clowes. a computer programmer from Stockport, Greater Manches-

ter, guilty on all three counts. Judge John Rogers QC said the offence was aggravated by the fact that Clowes had been out of prison for just 10 months when he made the false claims. The fraud was "sophisticated" and "deliberate", he said. If there had not been a change in the law, Clowes could have been ordered to serve some of the remainder of his previous sentence.

Nigel Fieldhouse, for the defence, asked the judge to consider a sentence that would not "crush" his client.



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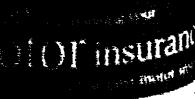
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And the Bafta nominations are...

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Best actress contenders: Gwyneth Paltrow; Cate Blanchett, Emily Watson and (below, with fellow nominee Michael Caine) Jane Horrocks

MICHAEL CAINE, who was ignored in the Oscar nominations this year, could still pick up a best actor award from his British peers.

The nominations for the Baftas, announced yesterday, include Caine for his role as a sleazy agent in the film Little Voice, a role for which he has already received a Golden Globe. Otherwise, the British Academy's choices are remarkably in line with the Oscar nominees, with period dramas Shakespeare in Love and Elizabeth dominating the list.

The Titonic actress Kate Winslet unveiled the shortlist for the 51st British Academy Film Awards at the Bafta building in Piccadilly London. Elizabeth and Shakespeare in Love are in the running for tress and Geoffrey Rush earned nominations as supporting actor for both films. Shakespeare in Love

By DAVID LISTER **Arts News Editor**

picked up another supporting actor nomination for Tom Wilkinson, a best actor nomination for Joseph Fiennes and a supporting actress nomination for Dame Judi Dench - who is also in the running for an Oscar.

Brenda Blethyn, another Oscar hopeful, is also up for a supporting actress title for Little Voice, while Jane Horrocks is nominated for best actress for the same film - a nomination she failed to receive in the Oscars. She is against three other Oscar nominees - Emily Watson, for Hilary and Jackie, Gwyneth Paltrow for Shakespeare in Love, and Cate Blanchett for Elizobeth.

Saving Private Ryan and best direction and best ac- The Truman Show are the other shortlisted films in the "best film" category. There was no nomination for Sir Ian McKellen, who had been short-



listed for an Oscar for his role in the film Gods and Monsters. However, his co-star Lynn Redgrave was nominated best supporting actress for the same film.

Kate Winslet paid tribute to the state of the British screen industry. "This year it really does feel like it's been a great year for British film," she said.

This year's event is to be held at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, on 11 April and will be hosted by Jonathan Ross, the new presenter of BBC1's Film

'99. He said vesterday he regarded the Baftas as the "thinking person's Oscars". The shortlist for the main Academy Film Awards (Bafta) are as follows:

■ Best Film – Elizabeth, Saving Private Ryan, Shakespeare in Love, The Truman

■ Best Performance by an actress in a leading role - Cate Blanchett (Elizabeth), Jane Horrocks (Little Voice), Gwyneth Paltrow (Shakespeare in Love), Emily Watson (Hilary and Jackie).

■ Best Performance by an actor in a leading role - Roberto Benigni (Life is Beautiful), Michael Caine (Little Voice), Joseph Fiennes (Shakespeare in Love), Tom Hanks (Saving Private Ryan).

■ Best Performance by an actress in a supporting role -Kathy Bates (Primory Colors), Brenda Blethyn (Little Voice). Judi Dench (Shakespeare in Love), Lynn Redgrave (Gods and Monsters)

■ Best Performance by an categories at the 51st British actor in a supporting role-Ed Mary.

Harris (The Truman Show), Geoffrey Rush (Elizabeth and Shakespeare in Love, Tom Wilkinson (Shakespeare in Love).

Alexander Korda Award for the outstanding British film of the year - Elizabeth, Hilary and Jackie, Little Voice, Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, My Name is Joe, Sliding Doors.

■ David Lean Award for best achievement in direction -Shekhar Kapur (Elizabeth), Steven Spielberg (Saving Private Ryan), John Madden (Shakespeare in Love), Peter Weir (The Truman Show). Orange Audience Award for most popular film of 1998 - A

Bug's Life, Armageddon, Doctor Dolittle, Enemy of the State, Godzilla, Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, Saving Private Ryan, Shakespeare in Love, Sliding Doors, There's Something About

Ranger on trial for Ward murder

AT THE opening of a murder trial yesterday in Nairobi, John Ward once again sat through details of the gruesome killing of his daughter, Julie, and her "probable" rape in September 1988. He had previously exposed a falsified police report blaming her death on possible suicide and wild animals; and then endured a four-month murder case in 1992 against two

But this time, the man that Mr Ward always believed had played a part in his daughter's death. Simon Makallah, the former chief game warden of Masai Mara Game Reserve, and now the assistant director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, is on trial for her murder. A second case, against David Nchoka, was dismissed through lack of evidence last month.

innocent game rangers.

Mr Ward is again running the gauntlet in a tiny Nairobi courtroom. His tension was evident - he asked, as one photographer continually flashed close-up portraits: "How many of those have you taken over the last 10 years?". His wife, Jan Ward, did not attend.

Mr Ward looked to the floor as the prosecution described how on 13 September 1988 Julie's left lower leg, parts of her jaw and pieces of her scalp with hair attached were "discovered in a remote place in the skull was discovered on 20 September and handed over to her father in a hotel room.

Ms Ward's remains were later flown to Britain to an independent forensic scientist, who is now too ill to give evidence in Kenya. The prosecu- several months.

BY LUCY HANNAN in Nairobi

tion will attempt to take his testimony in Britain.

There is little that is new to this trial, other than Mr Makallah's vehicle work cards, which detail, according to the independent prosecutor Salim Dhanii, "his movements and time and distance from any particular location".

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Mr Dhanji said that Mr Makallah found Ms Ward's remains too quickly, showing "he had prior knowledge of where the remains were".

Mr Makailah also used extraordinary lies to try to distance himself from Julie Ward's death, Mr Dhanji said. But the catalogue of incompetence, cover-ups and untruths underline the fact this is a case that depends entirely on circumstantial evidence, 10 years after the murder. The frustrations of Kenyan

justice are familiar - the prosecution has found that a crucial file relating to evidence given by Mr Makallah in the 1992 trial has "gone missing". "That's normal," whispered a legal observer, rubbing two fingers together to signal bribery. Mr Dhanji, when concluding

the opening of the trial, felt compelled to remind the court that a great deal had been written Masai Mara Game Park". Her on the murder, both locally and internationally, which in fair-ness to Mr Makallah should be disregarded.

"This is not a film, or a book. or a newspaper article; it is a trial for murder," he said. The trial is expected to last

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PRAYERS STOP dead at 2.33pm in point the congregation murmured both constituencies with avowedly Parliament, religious devotion the time-honoured response, socialist MPs, had done conspicubeing subject to the same intransigent timetable as all other parliamentary business. Worldly pieties often continue for a little longer. though, Yesterday, for example, Chris Smith's first question was a shameless underarm bowl from a Labour backbencher, Karen Buck, fearlessly demanding to know what progress the Department for Culture. Media and Sport was making towards increasing the representation of women and people from ethnic minorities. Just as fearless-

ly Mr Smith replied that they were

making capital progress, at which

"though obviously a great deal re-

mains to be achieved in this area". Then, at 2.35pm, real politics started with Crispin Blunt asking a question about the unconscionable deprivation of Reigate when it came to lottery fund handouts. Tony Banks conceded that Mr Blunt's constituency was lagging a little behind the national average. Perhaps other lottery projects just had more to recommend them, he suggested, implacably. Perhaps it's all a conspiracy, suggested Dennis Skinner, rising to remind the House that Bolsover and Chesterfield,

ously badly for lottery grants under the Conservative government. "If the boot has been put on the other foot a little then no bad thing!" Injustice for all was Mr Skinner's cry, and his relish at this reversal of fortunes earned him a tribute from Mr Banks for his zeal in attack.

This being the session for questions about tourism there will always be MPs who try to boost their own local attractions, however hopeless the enterprise seems. Ann Coffey, for example, drew the attention of the House to the glories of Stockport, a constituency that in-



cludes "the largest brick-built railway viaduct in the world". Some of Ms Coffey's colleagues looked sceptical at the prospects of terest in the public gallery. Do you masonry in Stockport, people were saying to themselves, instead of trying to fight sleep here?

again for a second set and everyone perked up. The cheeky compere for Westminster's Cockney Knees-Up Experience (all the whelks you added value in metaphor provican eat and comic banter thrown in free) is always a crowd pleaser and he didn't let us down yesterday.

Simon Hughes acted as his first straight man, ticking off him and the

discerned some expressions of inthis tackle was so late that all the mean to say we could be looking at players had left the field. Then he defended himself, it wasn't easy for ministers, he pointed out, since commenting on such matters was But then Mr Banks came on like "walking on eggshells while wearing swimming flippers". This phrase is a good example of Mr Banks' continuing commitment to sion. Most junior ministers would have satisfied themselves with the

cliche, but Mr Banks went one surreally flapping step further. His best line came later, though,

building a local tourist industry on such a foundation, but I thought I England manager when he was discogned some approximation. Claire Ward, the youngest member iting her Watford constituency recently, he said, particularly since he had suffered an election defeat there in the 1979 election.

He then pointed out that she had been only seven at the time, an age that made her "too young to vote and too old to kiss". Several MPs quivered visibly at the delicious frisson this turn of phrase provoked because there is more than one MP who believes the situation is now exactly the opposite. Ms Ward is now old enough to vote and young enough to kiss.

Mobbie William

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MID AARONON ILE

People fail to grasp

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ERESDAY REVIEW

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Lords should be a Senate, say Tories

THE CONSERVATIVE Party is **CONSTITUTION** ready to support radical plans to replace the House of Lords with a second chamber based

In an attempt to outflank the Government, the Conservatives are close to backing the idea of a 360-member chamber that would be elected on 15-year terms. The ambitious plans emerged yesterday as the Royal Commission on the Reform of the House of Lords announced after its first meeting is gaining ground among MPs that it would be holding future meetings in public.

To give "ordinary people" a say in the shape of the second chamber the Commission will stage its hearings across the country in the form of a consultation roadshow:

However, many leading Tories believe that they can embarrass Tony Blair over his intention to create a "transitional Lords made up of members or "cronies" appointed by the Government.

The Tory proposal, which has been drawn up by the party's alternative commis on House of Lords reform BY PAUL WAUGH AND

on an elected US-style Senate. Clashfern, would introduce regional representatives who

would serve to "gtue" Britain together after devolution. Although bishops and law lords would be retained, most perts, interested parties and the members would be elected on 15-year terms. According to party sources, the idea of a wholly elected second chamber and peers who fear the Government is trying to weaken the

set out stage two of the reform. "There is a great deal of debate going on within the party at the moment. While most agree on the merits of a wholly elected second chamber, there are still many different views on to report by 31 December, is how to get there," the source

chamber's powers by failing to

The Tory commission is also considering giving the second chamber the power to initiate legislation and greater ability to scrutinise secondary legislation such as European directives. The body, set up by chaired by Lord Mackay of William Hague last year is ex- Ann Benyon.

pected to report later this spring and give formal evi-dence to the Royal Commission in the summer.

The Commission, which is chaired by Lord Wakeham, a Conservative peer, announced vesterday that it would seek evidence from a wide range of expublic. The House of Lords Bill currently before Parliament will abolish most hereditary peers and create a "transitional" chamber made up of 91 hereditaries and life peers.

The Government has yet to decide the shape of its "second stage" reforms and has agreed that the Commission should attempt to define the role, functions and composition of the Lords for the future.

The Commission, which has made up of Gerald Kaufman MP, Lord Hurd, Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, Lord Butler of Brockwell, the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Richard Harries, Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth, Professor Anthony King, Bill Morris, Professor Dawn Oliver, Kenneth Munro and



The actor Richard Wilson ringing a bell outside Westminster Cathedral yesterday, part of a worldwide bell-ringing campaign to mark the day the treaty to ban landmines came into effect. More than 60 countries have ratified the treaty to ban anti-personnel mines Tom Craig

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Labour MPs complain of bullying by ministers

ministers yesterday to treat Commons select committees with more respect after backbench complaints of cabinet

Robert Sheldon, a veteran Labour MP and chairman of the powerful Commons liaison committee, revealed that he was reviewing relations with the Government in the light of the concerns.

The liaison committee, which represents all 27 select committees, has heard a catalogue of complaints about the Government's attempts to influence and control them.

QUESTIONS AND **ANSWERS**

Health costs of smoking

THE ANNUAL cost to the health service of treating smoking-related diseases in England was estimated at between £1,4bn and £1.7bn, said Public Health minister Tessa Jowell.

Legai meal

SCIENTISTS FROM biotechnology firm Zeneca Plant Science who were pictured eating genetically modified (GM) tomatoes have not breached environmental safety legislation, Environment minister Michael Meacher said.

Long holiday

THE NEED for a threemonth summer recess was questioned by David Winnick Labour MP for Walsall North. "Why can't MPs not return to work in the middle of September like some other European parliaments, instead of the beginning of October?" he asked.

BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

Chairmen of the select committees have been told to draw up dossiers of complaints from MPs who feel that they have been bullied or their work undermined by ministers. Select committees are supposed to be independent bodies holding the Government to account. The review would represent the most thorough inquiry yet into relations between the executive and the legislature.

Worries about ministerial

THE GOVERNMENT was brac-

ing itself for another constitu-

tional clash with the Lords last

night as MPs endorsed legis-

lation to lower the age of con-

the Sexual Offences (Amend-

ment) Bill by 274 votes to 64.

MPs backed a new clause to

While ministers have intro-

duced safeguards into the Bill

to protect vulnerable teenagers

from abuse, peers are still likely

to oppose the measure on the

peers' opposition when it was

debated as part of the Criminal

Justice Bill last July, said the

legislation was still insufficient

to ensure that youngsters in

"I have not changed my mind

... How can you when there is

such a moral issue involved,"

care would not be abused.

Baroness Young, who led

grounds of morality.

sent for homosexuals to 16.

eign Secretary, Robin Cook, had received leaked copies of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee's scathing report into the Foreign Office's handling of the arms-to-Sierra Leone affair Ernie Ross, Labour MP for

Dundee West, was forced to resign from the committee last week when he admitted sending the report to Mr Cook Mr Sheldon, MP for Ashton under Lyne, said yesterday it

was vital that the committees should be able to carry out "What we want to make sure

their work unimpeded.

Committee, also complained the Government was in danger Fresh battle

looms over gay age of consent

> By SARAH SCHAEFER it will then go back to the Commons where MPs are likely to

whelming majority. Government business managers fear this "constitutional ping-pong" could disrupt the tight legislative timetable.

reverse the defeat with an over-

GAY RIGHTS

Political Reporter

But Tory sources accuse ministers of introducing such controversial legislation in this parliamentary session to give them further ammunition to scrap hereditaries' voting rights with the House of Lords Bill.

In the Commons, MPs also backed an amendment ending prosecution for children under 16 who have homosexual sex with adults over the age of

said Baroness Young, the former Tory leader of the Lords. At present boys and girls "I have had thousands of letwho engage in homosexual sex ters of support from the public, with adult partners face prosincluding from the gay community... and I am looking to table amendments once the Bill reaches the Lords."

of "forgetting" that the seat of its power lay in the Commons. THE HOUSE

tinue to occupy this position of

questioning the executive and

bringing their reports out with-

out any fear of the conse-

quences for the individual

members or the select com-

mittee system as a whole," he

told Radio 4's The World at One.

very helpful" for ministers to

make pronouncements on se-

lect committee reports without

studying the findings in detail.

chairs the Transport Select

Gwyneth Dunwoody, who

Mr Sheldon said it was "not



BBC chief joins Blair's staff A new row over the influence of spin doctors

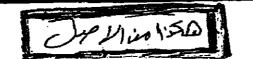
emerged with the appointment of the head of BBC's Research Unit to 10 Downing Street Bill Bush will leave the BBC and join Tony Blair's staff as Head of Research at the Strategic Communications Unit. He is one of the leading experts on elections and voting behaviour.

Today's Agenda Commons: 2,30pm

Health questions. Opposition debate on Sierra Leone. Short debate on access to justice for deaf people

Lords: 2.30pm Commonwealth Development Corp Bill,

Road Traffic (NHS ecution, whereas children of the Charges) Bill, report. same age who engage in het-Youth Justice and erosexual sex with adults Criminal Evidence Bill. report.



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BBC chief joins

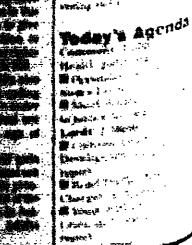
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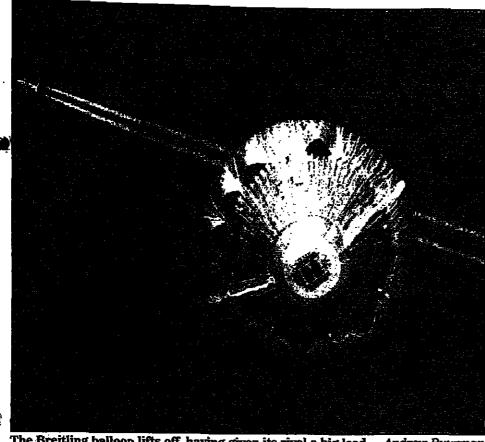
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eviaduct Balloon takes short-cut in record chase



The Breitling balloon lifts off, having given its rival a big lead Andrew Buurman

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

IN AESOP'S fable, the tortoise won the race by plodding on steadily, while the hare rested, thinking he could sprint past his rival. But in a modern race in the skies, the outcome is far less certain.

Two teams are competing to be the first to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon. The Cable and Wireless entry, which lifted off 13 days ago, has a head start, but the Breitling Orbiter 3, which left yesterday, is smaller, lighter and faster. And, crucially, the Breitling

3 has permission to fly over Chinese airspace, shortening its journey by some 4,000 miles. Cable and Wireless must go round, thanks to Richard Branson. His balloon drifted over China before Christmas, provoking an official complaint and all British-registered balloons have been banned from Chinese space while the Civil Aviation Authority investigates.

Bertrand Piccard, a Swiss pilot, and Brian Jones, from Wiltshire, set off from Chateau d'Oex, in Switzerland, at 0805 GMT vesterday and quickly

Saturday 27 February Cable & Wireless breaks Cable & Wireless balloon takes off from Almeria in southern Spain the around-the-world balloon endurance recor of 233 hours Monday 1 March: The Breitling balloon is launched from Chateau d'Oex in Switzerland. The Cable & Wireles balloon (right), Although 12 days behind its rival, the Breitling Orbiter 3 is smaller and faster, and has permission to is now heading fly over China

reached an average speed of we use the same route. Over the 30mph. Their rivals, Andy Elson, 45, from Wells in Somerset, and Colin Prescot, 48, from Stockbridge in Hampshire, are drifting at 15mph over the Bay of Bengal, hoping to reach Japan in four days.

But Aaron Noble, the flight manager for Breitling, said his team hopes to reach Japan in eight days, narrowing the gap. Their balloon is built for a slow trudge around the world and ours is built for a quick dash," he said. "We cannot catch up if

Pacific we will be sharing the same winds so we will remain four days behind but it all depends what happens when we reach America.

"Cable and Wireless may decide to go across America and Canada and by the time we get there the winds may have changed. Then it might be better to go south to California, which is shorter and we might catch up that way."

A spokeswoman for the Cable and Wireless team admitted having to go around China was frustrating but said they were too busy concentrating on their own flight to worry about Breitling.

At 191ft, the Cable and Wireless balloon is 40ft taller than the Breitling one, with a capacity of 1.1m cubic feet compared with 650,000. The fuel is kerosene, instead of the more usual propane, which can be stored in lighter unpressurised containers, allowing the craft to stay in the air longer.

cannot fly over China, they have allowed 25 days for their 20,000-mile journey. Mr Piccard. 41. whose grandfather Auguste set the first balloon altitude record in the 1930s, and Mr Jones are hoping to cover 16,000 miles in 16 days.

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Richard Branson now says he will try to circumnavigate the globe from the southern hemi-In Aesop's fable, slow and

steady won the race. But in the latest challenge, Mr Branson is

Robbie Williams faces £1m bill

ams could face a bill of more than £1m if he loses the High Court battle he resumed yesterday against his former

manager. Williams, who won three Brit awards a fortnight ago, is appealing against an earlier High Court ruling that he must pay £90,000 in commission to Nigel Martin-Smith, who was responsible for starting Take That, the phenomenally successful boy band that launched the singer's career. Costs, interest and VAT are expected to take the bill comfortably past the £1m mark.

The original action was rooted in Williams's acrimonious split from Take That. He left in July 1995, calling his erstwhile colleagues "selfish, arrogant and thick". As part of his contract, however, he was obliged to retain Mr Martin-Smith for a six-month notice period until

When the singer refused to

Opening the appeal yesterday, Michael Silverleaf QC, described how Williams began to find the "very tight restrictions" imposed by Mr Martin-Smith on the band's lifestyle and activities "somewhat

"He began to go out to parties and enjoy himself," said Mr Silverleaf. "It became clear that Mr Williams ultimately wanted to leave the band ... He just didn't feel he could stick with the constraints that were

Since leaving Take That, Williams has shrugged off alcohol and drug problems and gone on to produce two highly successful solo albums - Life Through a Lens and I've Been

THE POP STAR Robbie Willi- BY RHYS WILLIAMS

pay commission after signing for a new record company, Mr* Martin-Smith sued Williams for breach of contract.

difficult

being imposed."

The hearing continues today.

DAVID AARONOVITCH



People fail to grasp that you can be racist without knowing it

TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

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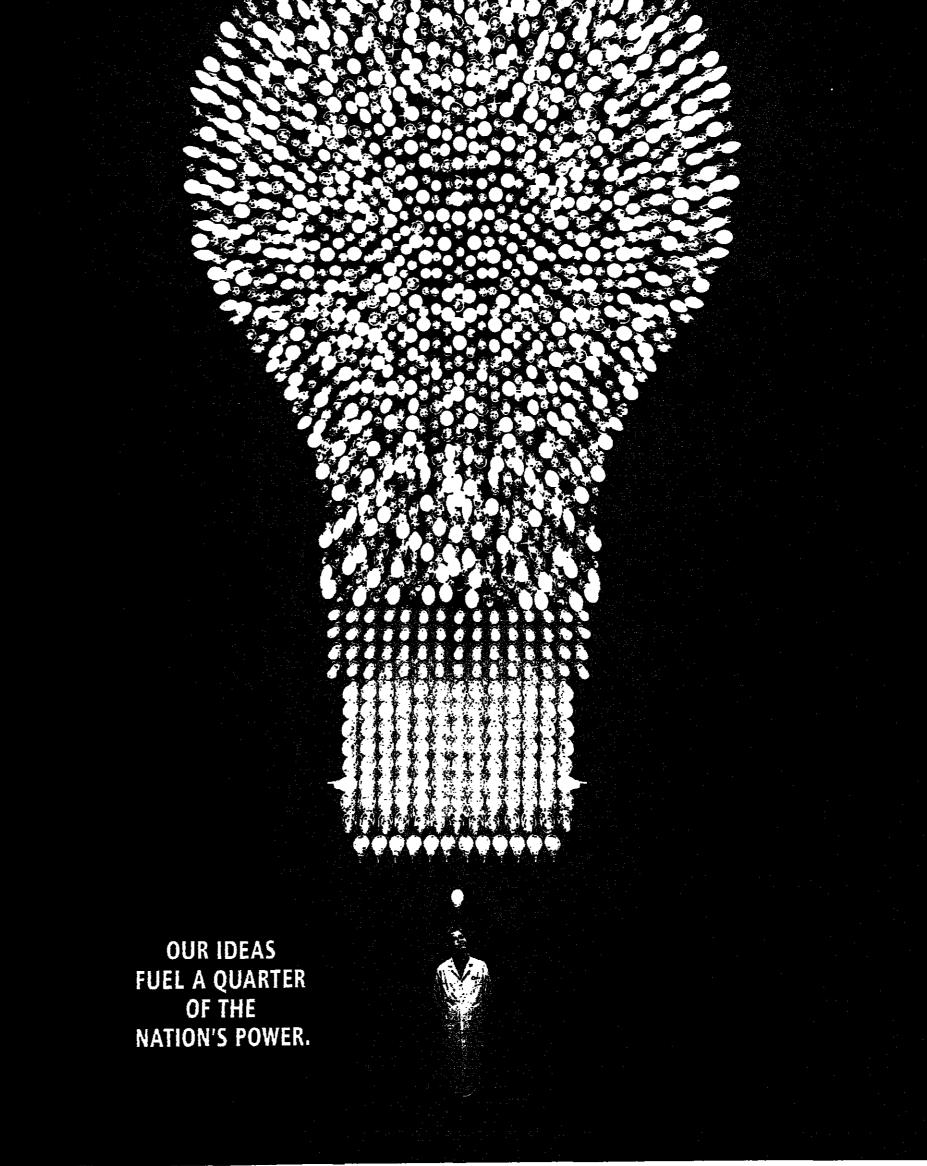
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By John Willcock and clare garner

ONE OF the newest and most instantly recognisable features of London's skyline - Canary Wharf and its fifty-storey tower - is to be floated on the stock market.

The Docklands development once hailed as the shining beacon of Thatcherite yuppiedom formally rose from the ashes of recession yesterday with its owners announcing it has been valued at more

than Ebn. The flotation brings the fortunes of Canary Wharf full circle. After being endorsed by Margaret Thatcher as the financial face of the future, the project proved a disaster for the Canadian real estate de-

veloper whose dream it was. Now Paul Reichmann, who led a group of investors to buy back Canary Wharf from its bankers in 1995 for £800m, has recovered his optimism. He intends to place 25 per cent of the shares with institutional investors for an expected £500m and keep a stake worth £200m. The rest will stay with existing investors. The deal is expected to be done by Easter.

Under an agreement with the Government, the proceeds will go towards the Canary Wharf Group's final contribution of £70m to £90m to the Jubilee Line extension. The much-delayed Underground link to central London, which promises to be an efficient alternative to the erratic Docklands Light Rail, is due to open later this year.



Paul Reichmann: His dream has finally come true

The group also intends to "It's like The Truman cut its debt by £350m, leaving Show," said Anne Lynch, 36, it owing a total of £500m. The sitting on a bench in the basenainder of the flotation proment. "This is what we do ceeds will help to fund the 84every lunchtime. We always acre scheme's ambitious see the same people go past. It's really sad." development programme.

"This is a huge watershed Indie Sangha, 25, an adfor us," George Iacobescu, the ministrator at the Financial group's chief executive, said Services Authority, agreed. yesterday. "More than 60 per "It's isolated," she said. "It's characteriess. Everyone looks cent of the project is completed or under way." like drones."

Such disenchantment did Twenty-five thousand people work at Canary Wharf, a figure not seem to be linked to how 1988 Reichmann brothers take over Canary Wharf expected to treble in 10 years. much people earn. Bankers A few years ago the complex dislike of the vibe vesterday. resembled a ghost town, with

"There's no atmosphere," few commercial outlets. But despite the recent exsaid Matthew Tooth, 23, who replosion of shops, restaurants cently joined a bank at the and bars, many workers still Wharf. "It's so businessfeel cut off from the real world oriented. Everyone walks with once they enter the futuristic. their head down."

he *Independent/Independent*

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card, or credit card. Credit-card payments will incur

and throughout the week.

on Sunday have teamed up

To Joe Major, 40, who is in-

stalling heating and ventilation a camera every day." in the tower, Canary Wharf is

"Americanism gone mad", particularly the comprehensive ban on smoking. "It's impersonal - I can't wait to get back by his readers' attitude. "This to the City," he said. "The architecture's lovely, but you

DLR to island

Canary Wharf even has its bott, editor of The Whorf, said he never ceases to be amazed place was built on the back of the yuppy boom and died with

HISTORY OF THE WHARF

1982 Thatcher government sets up enterprise zone in the Docklands

development and invest £1.6bn and builders expressed their 1991 One Canada Square, Britain's tallest building, is completed

> 1992 Canary Wharf collapses with debts of £576m 1993 Banks put together £1.1bn rescue package for Canary Wharf 1995 Reichmanns lead investor group to buy back Canary

Wharf for £800m 1999 Canary Wharf to float on stock market, valuing development at up to £2.6bn

is a reinvented yuppy, a compassionate yuppy.

BIG NAMES OF WORLD BUSINESS IN LONDON'S HIGH-RISE VILLAGE

Buildings shown in lighter grey not yet built

Undeterred by a 1996 bombing attempt by the IRA, Canary Wharf's current investors include Prince Al Waleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz al Saud, CNA Financial Corporation, Franklin Mutual Series Fund and affiliates of Republic New York Corporation. Eleven buildings in the scheme are complete and a further seven under construction, including a 42-storey site that will be the headquarters of HSBC, owner of Midlands Bank.

Investment banks including Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and Credit Suisse First Boston are already installed, and the central tower -Britain's highest building - is home to nine national newspapers. Citigroup is about to years are expected in a pros- space for a chapel.

complete one tower and is due to announce later this week that it is to build a second, bigger one next door, to house its investment banking arm Saloman Smith Barney, now in

Victoria, central London.

During the recession of the early Nineties Canary Wharf was looked upon as an Eighties white elephant. The only way to attract tenants was with low charges and lengthy rent-free periods. But Mr Iacobescu said yes-

terday that such incentives were finished. Rental income from Canary Wharf had doubled since 1995, from "the mid teens (pounds per square foot) to the mid thirties"

The plans to double the building space to 10 million square feet in five to seven

pectus for potential investors to be published in 10 days. Canary Wharf's long-term viability depends on its ability

to attract financial institutions. There were suggestions that staying out of the euro could affect London as a prime financial centre, losing vital business to Frankfurt. That is not the view of Mr Iacobescu. "London will remain Europe's financial centre," he said.

For those who may consider the complex soulless, help is at hand. The Rev Gordon Warren, rector of St Anne's Church in Limehouse, has the Wharf within his parish. "Tve raised people's awareness to the lack of spiritual facility," he said. "There needs to be a centre of community and there isn't anything." He hopes to get

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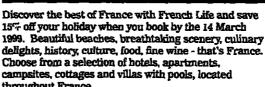
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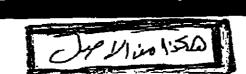
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THE INDUITABLE

US bombers step up war against Iraq

THE US launched a large-scale By ANDREW MARSHALL escalation of its aerial war against Iraq yesterday, attacking several sites in the north of

Iraq said that the strikes had damaged its ability to export oil, which it uses to pay for food for its increasingly impoverished population.

The day-by-day bombing of Iraqi air defences has become an undeclared war, allowing the US and Britain to launch attacks almost at will in the nofly zones over the country. Iraq does not recognise the zones, and has targeted allied aircraft with radar, anti-aircraft fire and surface-to-air missiles.

But for most of the past two months, the US and Britain have been dropping at most a dozen bombs and missiles on Iraq in attacks in the north and south. Yesterday they launched attacks on a much broader of Mosul with a concentration scale, as the rules of engagement were apparently shifted. The attacks appear to be aimed at weakening Iraq's control of the north of the country, a large slice of which is already under Kurdish control.

A statement from the US European Command, which con-

in Washington

trols the operations in northern Iraq, said: "Between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Iraqi time, while conducting routine enforcement of the northern no-fly zone. and in response to several incidents of Iraqi radar targeting coalition aircraft, US F-15Es dropped more than 30, 2,000lb and 500lb laser guided bombs." They were aimed at 'Iraqi communications sites, radio relay sites, and anti-aircraft artillery

The US said that the incidents happened "near Mosul". the northern Iraqi city. Though the US and Britain have not reported details in the past of what targets they were striking, it is thought that they have targeted facilities around Ayn Zalah, a city to the north-west of communications and oil facilities. They have also in the past attacked targets at Tall Afar, an airbase to the West, Faidah, a village to the north, and other targets on the edge of the Kurdish-controlled zone to the north.

pipeline which took oil to Turkey for export under the oil for food programme.

Iraq said that further damage had been done to its oil facilities yesterday. "American warplanes caused civilian casualties and other damage to a link in the control system of the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline resulting in the isolation of the metering station in Zakho (northern Iraq)," an Iraqi spokesman said

The US denied that it had hit a civilian target, but said it was now allowing its pilots greater latitude in choosing what they attacked.

"Pilots have been given greater flexibility to attack those systems that place them in jeopardy," said William Cohen, the US Secretary of Defense. "They are not simply going to respond to a triple-A [anti-aircraft artillery] site or to a SAM [surface-to-air missile]

"They can go after command and control and communications centers as well that allow Saddam Hussein to try to target them and put On Sunday, Iraq said that US them in jeopardy. They have

An Iraqi climbing through the damaged remains of what is reported to be an oil pumping station at Mosul, 240 miles north of Baghdad Reuters

some flexibility and they will

continue to have that flexibility." Iraq has been trying to trap allied aircraft by using its own aircraft and other decoys to lure them into the field of fire of suriace -to-air missiles.

Kurdish sources say that Iraq was using a multiple rocket launcher to draw allied aircraft, dumping dozens of missiles on the town of Dahuk are located.

The US has deployed Patriot anti-missiles around Incirlik, the Turkish base where the US and Royal Air Force aircraft

past to attack the facilities in

Turkey, Kuwait and Saudi Ara-

bia from which the allied air-

craft operate, though it

withdrew the threat against

The US and British strikes more support for the exiled

Iraq has threatened in the have become noticeably more wide-ranging over the past few weeks, extending to communications facilities and other military targets across the country. Targets just 50 miles outside Baghdad were attacked last

> The greater purpose behind the US and british attacks remains opaque. America has said that it will start providing

of the Iraqi National Congress, the largest group, will be held in Washington next month.

The US Congress has approved funds to arm and train the opposition, but it is still some way from disbursing this. In the meantime, America is ap- and the US has also reported plying mounting pressure on the regime through military

Washington continues to ic last month.

Iraqi opposition, and a meeting hint that the rule of Saddam Hussein is on its last legs. An article in the magazine

onsi sho Lwh

US News and World Report says that Saddam sacked senior naval officers who said they could not destroy a US aircraft carrier with their tiny navy, that there have been riots around Iraq following the murder of an influential Shia cler-

Israeli restraint brings end to air raids on Lebanon

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

AFTER HEAVY air raids overnight against Hizbollah. Israel backed away from making fresh attacks yesterday in retaliation for the killing of an Israeli general in an ambush. The army allowed people living in northern Israel along the border with Lebanon to leave their bomb shelters after spending 24 hours underground.

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Israeli officials said there would be more air attacks if Hizbollah fired Katyusha rockets into the north of the country. Israeli planes earlier raided Baalbek, in eastern Lebanon, a stronghold of the Islamic guerrillas, as well as breaking the sound barrier over Beirut.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said Israel was ready to strike if necessary. On a visit to the family of an officer killed last week he said: "I'm not going into operational steps but we have our plans well laid out and our targets well chosen."

Israel's restraint is motivated by a belief that widening the war will do little damage to Hizbollah, whose mobile forces do not provide easily identifiable military objectives. To boost the morale of the population at home Israeli television showed buildings in Lebanon exploding as they were hit, as well as tanks on transporters being moved to the border.

Three of those killed on Sunday by the Hizbollah bomb that

Avalanche

boy leaves

THE FOUR YEAR-OLD Austrian

boy who was pulled from under

an avalanche and survived has

been released in perfect health. a doctor said yesterday. With the aid of a tracker dog,

Alexander Walter was rescued

from the snow in Valzur - site of

one of last week's two avalanch-

es in which 38 people died. He

was clinically dead but was slow-

ly warmed up and resuscitated by doctors in nearby Galtur, the

hospital



'n Israeli, Marcelle Kabilo, embracing her daughter. Galit, after spending a night in a shelter

eral, the most senior Israeli officer to be killed in Lebanon since 1982, is to be buried today.

yesterday produced a rethat the Israeli army "is pre-Israel and Hizbollah say they want to preserve ground rules for the war in south Lebanon, which limits both sides from attacking civilian targets.

blew apart the armoured Mercedes of Brigadier General Ezer Gerstein were buried yesterday in funerals attended by thousands. The 33-year-old genThe Israeli cabinet meeting

strained statement, saying only pared to continue fighting terrorist forces in Lebanon". Both

The Israeli air raids on Baalbek and other targets in theory were in retaliation for two Katyusha rockets on Israel on Sunday and not a response to the general's ambush. The Hizbollah attack on the general is allowable under the rules agreed in 1996, but the firing of Katyushas into Israel is not.

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said she was "urging all parties to exercise restraint". Mr Netanyahu also knows the preelection offensive in Lebanon launched three years ago by his predecessor, Shimon Peres, did

him no good at the polls. Hizbollah also shows signs of not wanting to extend the conflict beyond its killing of General Gerstein. It did not fire Katyushas in retaliation for the raids. Supporters gave sweets to passing motorists in Beirut and staged victory processions but it does not want to provoke

a prolonged air offensive. In the Israeli cabinet Ariel Sharon, the Foreign Minister, and Avigdor Kahalani, the Interior Minister, both favour a unilateral withdrawal. This is opposed by Moshe Arens, the new Defence Minister.

Leading article, Review page 3 Comment, Robert Fisk, Review page 5

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other Tyrolean village hit by a fatal avalanche a day earlier. Alexander's home was destroyed in the snow slide, and he and his mother have gone to stay with his grandparents. AP



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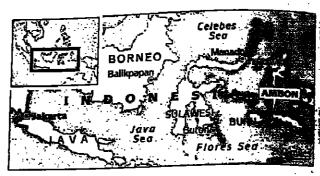
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warned that the battles between Christians and Muslims on the island of Ambon had the potential to tear apart the world's fourth most populous country. "We have to handle this problem," he said in the capital, Jakarta. "If not, it could

ed more than 10 people have been killed since Sunday in at least two separate incidents in Ambon, the capital of Maluku such brutal mass rioting before," General Wiranto said at the launch of a new rapid reaction force of 5,000 élite antiriot troops.



and group interest to attack one another. And never before was ments in the market flared into mass riots," he said.

The terror in Ambon began in January. It has quickly developed into the grimmest of the many local conflicts that have sprung up across the vast ple are Muslim, but in Maluku, known in Dutch colonial times as the Spice Islands, there is a Christian majority, which lives

Many of the immigrants are businessmen and entrepreneurs and, compared with other Indonesian hot spots, such as East Timor, Aceh and Irian Jaya, the communities have lived in relative harmony.

Since the Indonesian economy collapsed in 1997, however, resentment has grown at the settlers' relative prosperity, although there was no obvious rigger for the clashes.

About 200 people have been shot by police, burnt to death in their homes, or killed in street fighting with home-made spears, bombs and bows. Villages across the island have been razed, and rival groups have taken to stopping cars and checking the religion of their ecupants. Thousands of efugees have sought to escape

mkesman, Brigadier General Togar Sianipar, said yesterday death after a battle on Sunday tians armed with spears and machetes. Other reports sugwere shot dead yesterday by police officers attempting to quell further disturbances.

Muslim witnesses quoted by the Associated Press news agency said that five people were killed after a mob of Chris tians burnt Muslim homes and threw petrol bombs at worshippers emerging from a mosque on the outskirts of Ambon town. One Christian man was killed, and four Muslims were shot dead by police, who have been ordered by General Wiranto to shoot rioters on

passed on by Western diplomats, say Muslim and Christtaken to firing on civilians of the other religion.

But the reports were not independently confirmed and in Jakarta, Brigadier General splits within the security forces. "Up to now the armed forces.

are still solid," he said. Unemployment in Indonesia hit 15.4 million people or 17.1 per cent of the workforce in 1998, while the number of poor rose to 40 per cent of the 194 million population. President B J Habibie said yesterday. Government estimates had put the jobless figure at 20 million.

Moderates set for victory in Iran elections

PRESIDENT KHATAMI of Iran was heading for another victory in his battle with the country's conservative clerical establishment yesterday. Early results of the elections for Tehran's city council showed moderate supporters of Mr Khatami were well ahead.

Pro-Khatami candidates, led by the former interior minister, Abdollah Nouri, were expected to take 12 of the 15 city council seats, according to state-run radio. Of the remaining three seats, two were likely to be won by candidates fielded jointly by the moderates and conservatives, and the manager of the popular Pirouzi football club, who was clinging on to the final seat in Tehran.

State radio said about 25 million voters, or 65 per cent, turned out for the local polls, introduced by Mr Khatami to help to break the centralised grip of the conservative estab-lishment. Thirty-nine million people, aged 15 and over, were

eligible to vote on Friday. Mostafa Tajzadeh, deputy interior minister and head of the electoral commission, said women and independent candidates were leading in many provincial towns, where counting was almost over "There are

BY JAMES ROBERTS

women are not represented in some cities they hold a majority or are even the front-. runners. This is a giant step towards participation in the country's public administration." he said. In Tehran, two women candidates – Jamileh Kadivar and Faterneh Jalaipour - are among the top 15.

In the holy city of Mashhad-the stronghold of the influential conservative cleric Ayatollah Abbas Vaez-Tabasi, the four front-runners are independents, followed by reformers and conservatives, according to Abrar newspaper.

"Independents broke the grip of main factions in the provinces. This is a giant step towards decentralisation of power," Mr Tajzadeh said. "The monopoly (on power) was rejected through the democratic Process."

Reports from central Isfahan, the most politicised city after Tehran, showed reformers leading by a wide margin Local journalists said pro-Khatami candidates were poised to capture seven of 11 seats on the city council, with the balance going

IN BRIEF

Obasanjo declared poli winner

NIGERIA'S NATIONAL electoral commission yesterday proclaimed the former military ruler General Olusegun Obasanjo the winner of a weekend presidential election, brushing aside protests from the only other candidate, Olu Falae, who alleged massive poll-rigging.

Stolen Generation seek damages

TWO ABORIGINES, Lorna Cubillo, 60, and Peter Gunner, 51, from Australia's "Stolen Generation", opened a court case, seeking damages from the government for being forcibly removed from their parents and raised as whites. If successful, thousands could take legal action.

Dispensation for Mother Teresa

THE POPE has granted a special dispensation in the case of Mother Teresa from the Catholic Church rule that five years must pass after a person's death before the bureaucratic procedure that can lead to sainthood can begin. The nun died two years ago.

Turkey's £56m aid to Kurd region

BULENT ECEVIT, the Turkish Prime Minister, unveiled details of a £56m economic development plan for the southeast where Kurds are concentrated. Since the capture of the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan last month, the government has stressed the need for development.

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Part Police chief sacked in racism row

AS POLICE in New York City try BY DAVID USBORNE to refute allegations of racism prompted by the shooting last month of an unarmed West African by four white officers, the chief of New Jersey's state police was without a job yesterday after being fired for publicly blaming drug trafficking on ethnic minorities

The abrupt dismissal of Colonel Carl Williams by the Governor of New Jersey, Christie Todd Whitman, has thrown a fresh spotlight on simmering tensions between the African-American community and state and city police forces around the country.

Colonel Williams was sacked after saying blacks and Hispanics were more likely than whites to be involved in the cocaine and marijuana market

Mary Level

His sacking will feed a widening debate in New York about racism in law enforcement that echoes the scandal engulfing the Metropolitan Police in London in response to the Lawrence report. Black and Hispanic leaders in the US have long complained about unfair police harassment of non-whites.

New York, where the force has been credited with a dramatic lowering of crime rates, witnessed large protests early last month after the shooting of Amadou Diallo in the hallway of his apartment building in the Bronx. The officers now under investigation are being asked to in New York

explain why they fired 41 shots at Diallo, who apparently was breaking no law and was carrying no weapon.

Black leaders in New Jersey had already been calling for the sacking of Colonel Williams, the highest police officer in the state, arguing that he had turned a blind eye to so-called "racial profiling" by state troopers on the interstate highway

Condemned as illegal, "pro-filing" refers to the singling out of non-white drivers by police officers watching for anyone violating traffic laws. Until last weekend, the police

chief enjoyed the support of Governor Whitman. She abandoned him after the publication of an interview he gave to The Star-Ledger newspaper in Newark on Sunday. Remarks that Colonel Williams made in the interview drew an instant and furious response from minority leaders. "The comments were in-

sensitive and absolutely counter to bolstering confidence in law enforcement," the Governor's spokesman said. "There are vast segments of the New Jersey public whose confidence in the system is

Speaking to the newspaper. Colonel Williams said it would be naive not to recognise that

race is a factor in drug activity in the state. "Two weeks igo, the president of the United States went to Mexico to talk to the president of Mexico about drugs. He didn't go to Ireland. He didn't go to England," Colonel Williams said. عدد ا من الاعلى

"Today with this drug problem, the drug problem is cocaine or marijuana. It is most likely a minority group that's involved with that," he went on. "They aren't going to ask some Irishman to be part of their ang because they don't trust

Black members of the New Jersey assembly have promised hearings into racism in the police force.



Colonel Carl Williams, who has been sacked as New Jersey police chief after making comments on drugs and race

Man charged over arms smuggling

A CHINESE national was facing charges in Boston yesterday after customs officials said they had caught him trying to smuggle sensitive equipment out of the United States that could be ance systems.

The arrest of the man, identitled as Yao Yi, comes at an embarrassing moment as the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, pays an official visit to Peking. Claims that China has tried illegally to obtain sensitive US weapons technology is a delicate issue between the Chinese and US governments.

It was not clear whether Mr Yao, who was arrested last week in California and brought yes-

terday to Boston, was attempting to smuggle the goods - fibre-

By DAVID USBORNE

optic gyroscopes - on his own behalf or for the Chinese military. to long-range missiles to en-

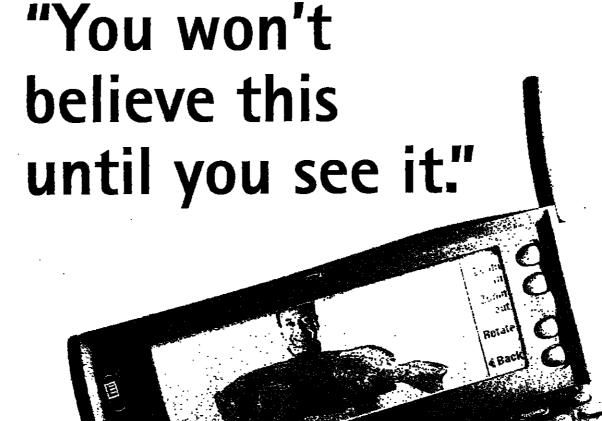
hance accuracy. They can also be fitted to smart bombs and aircraft guidance systems. According to police charges,

Mr Yao tried to buy the gyrofirm but approval for the sale was denied by the State Department. He apparently then approached another supplier; but that company was a dummy corporation set up by Customs for the purpose of entrapping Mr Yao.

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Michelin honours poetic chef of Auvergne

finds inspiration - and wild herbs - while running in his native hills in the southern Auvergne won the highest accolade in French cookery

Michel Bras, 52, was given the coveted third Michelin star for his mountain-top, hotelrestaurant near Laguiole, 3,700ft up in the Aveyron hills of south-western France.

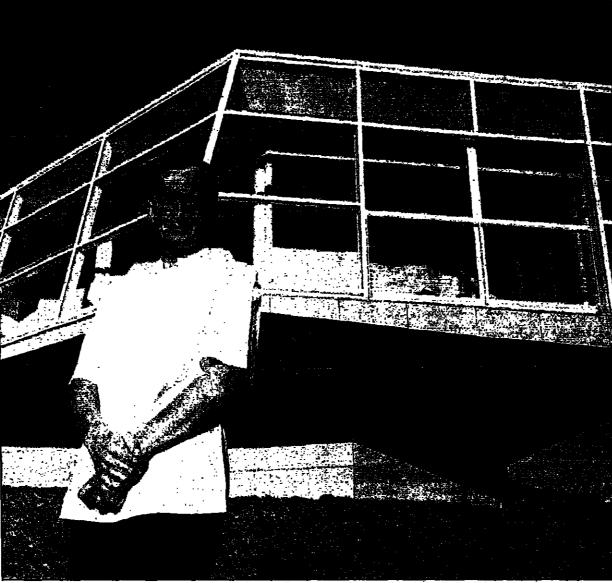
His elevation by the 1999 Michelin Guide marks a possibly deliberate - turning away from the globe-trotting, superstar chefs who have made the gastronomic news in France in recent years. Mr Bras, who learnt cooking lat coulant" (Biscuit of melted mostly from his mother, specialises in elaborate versions of regional dishes and rarely strays from home territory.

Bespectacled and given to poetic utterances. Mr Bras is known, to his annovance, as the "herbalist" of French cooking. His use of wild and of bread between courses. unusual plants, such as meadow-sweet, started a cheap, are reasonable com-

herbal trend among betterknown, and more expensive, restaurants in the big cities.

in the mountains and it is from these runs that I harvest ideas and emotions," he said last week, when news of his probable enoblement by Michelin leaked out. "That's how I discovered meadow-sweet. I still clearly remember the circumstances of this encounter - the sky, the light and that leaden scent, heavy with honey."

Mr Bras is best known for two dishes. "Biscuit de chocochocolate) and "Gargouillou de jeunes legumes" (which means, literally, a gargling or bubbling of young vegetables). His restaurant maintains the informality of a country inn: customers are invited to clean their knife and fork on a piece Prices, although hardly



Michel Bras, whose restaurant near Laguiole, south-western France, has joined the Michelin élite

or three-star restaurants. A lunchtime menu, eaten while enjoying panoramic views over the hills, costs £22. A dinner menu costs £66.

Mr Bras bemoans the cost of gastronomic meals in the swankier. Michelin-starred restaurants in large cities, which charge up to £150 a

pared with those of most two- head for their cheapest menu. he learnt to love food at the sous-Vézelay was demoted to By finding his inspiration in kitchen table during his child- two stars. Britain has the nature, Michel Bras says he hood. If he wasted a piece of same three, three-star restaubread, he would be rapped rants as last year. hopes to express through his food "a climate, a freedom of across the knuckles. expression, a sense of won-

derment, a joie de vivre". He compares his cooking to jazz other chef was promoted to "for its architecture ... its fluid elegance, its silences". More prosaically, he says L'Espérance at Saint-Père- by a small Michelin man.

The main innovation of this

He joins 20 other three-star year's guide, published tomorrestaurants in France. No row, is the inclusion of 30 Paris restaurants in the category of the premier division this year, inexpensive but wholesome but one. Marc Meneau, of the regional restaurants, marked

At last, a good hairdresser

STREET LIFE SAMOTECHNY LANE

have had the faith and cour- as pate de fois gras. age to bunch new businesses. tures are tentatively emerging from under snow.

Lane area, one is a new hairdressing salon: Before Alexander opened "Persona Lab", we all used to go to Aunt Lyuda's. She may have been a wizard at dyeing the beehives of the local female trolley-bus drivers. But she always made a mess of my simple bob. Then I would go to some flashy haunt of the New Russians and pay \$100 (£65) to have my hair "corrected. Outrage at the price, however, would mean that next time I was back with the trolley-bus drivers, trusting my hair to the cheap and cheerful Lynda.

Alexander now offers an exit from that vicious circle. Just before Christmas, he opened a salon giving the kind of cuts he learnt while studyleast, can afford. He economised on decor - the walls are white – to concentrate on stylish cutting. "Everything was overblown before," he said. reliable partners. And they Who could afford those inflated prices?" Now he has a steady stream of clients. able to pay the equivalent of \$30, and is feeling optimistic.

Belinda. It used to be the biggest supermarket in the area and, frankly, was a bad joke. You had to be a masochist to shop there. The prices for the imported groceries were astronomical, yet the service

was positively abusive. When the rouble plunged, a funny thing happened. For two short weeks in September, Belinda, which still had stocks at old prices, became the cheapest shop in the area. Word spread quickly. Poor housewives flocked there to stock up on rice and macaroni

SINCE LAST August's eco- and try perhaps for the first nomic crash, some Russians time, more exotic items such

When the last goods were It would be an exaggeration to sold off, Belinda went out of say the spring of recovery has business. Since then, a lot of arrived. Rather, a few ven- renovation has been going on. Last week, Italian leather like snowdrops pushing up solas went in Then shelves with cheap mugs, washing Of two in the Samotechny powder and shampoo appeared. What was going on?

I walked in. A young assistant called Dima greeted me with a smile. In the back, I met Maria Belova, the equally welcoming manageress. "Down black alsatian at her side. He was not a guard dog, she said, but a stray she had found injured and adopted. The atmosphere in the shop had certainly become friendlier.

What gave Ms Belova, who used to work in a Russian jewellery factory and also lived for a while in London, the confidence to open her own store after other entrepreneurs had been bitten? "We can't just sit and accept that our country is going down the drain. We have to try again."

Ms Belova, smart in a ing in Loudon, at prices that black and white hound-tooth middle-class · Russians, at checked suit, said lessons had been learnt from the crisis. "Businesses should not try to make too much money too fast. They should deal with should be flexible."

She went on to explain how she was creating a minidepartment store, with a range of goods from expensive Further down the road is furniture to the cheapest household items. "We will watch and see what is popular. Later we might concentrate on one thing or another'

So far, customers are looking at the sofas as if they were museum pieces but they are snapping up the floral mugs at 60 roubles (£2) each. "International Women's Day is coming up on 8 March," said Ms Belova. "For husbands wanting a change from the regulation three red tulips, the mugs make nice little presents for

Kosovar villagers flee Yugoslav military

YUGOSLAV SOLDIERS and BY EMMA DALY police appear to be clearing vil- in Gajre lages in Kosovo along the bor-Albanian inhabitants

About 5.000 villagers, fearing military attack, have fled their for temporary shelters. homes in the past few days, seeking refuge across the borbours. Many, however, are from the province's capital,

der with Macedonia of their borders of Kosovo. In one gully, Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) women and children waited as their men cut down branches

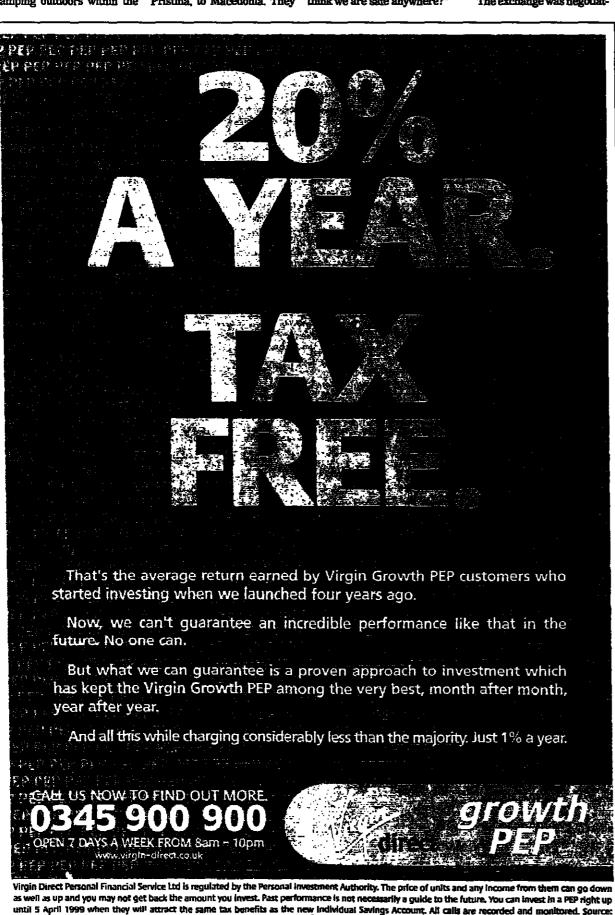
from the village of Gajre, close

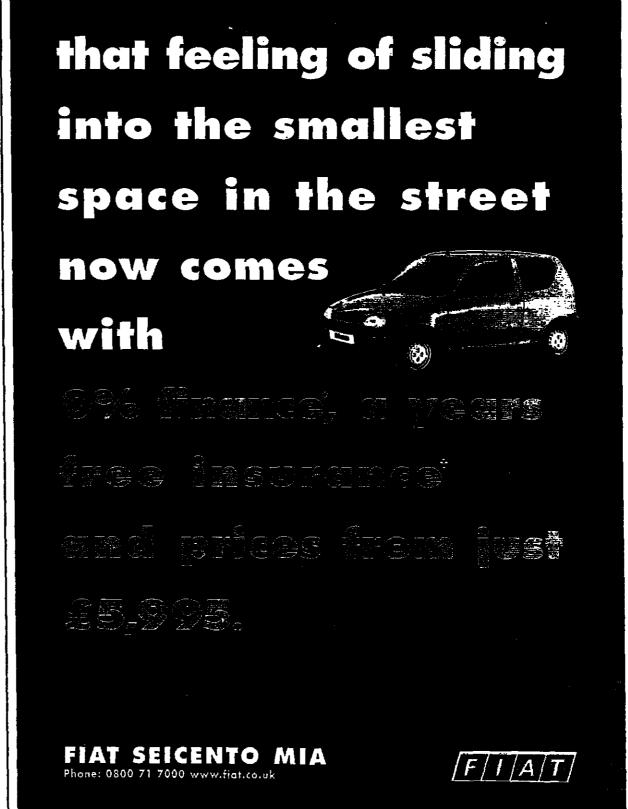
ond night in the snow. Back in the village, rebel fighters from the patrolled the streets, but few civilians remain, Ismet Calaku. who returned yesterday to find The group of 300 had come the body of his brother - presumably shot dead by Yugoslav der with friends and neigh- to the main road leading south forces attacking the village said: "Where can we go? Do you

of Velika Hoca, international mediators succeeded in preventing a feared attack by the Serb security forces, after the murder of a Serb civilian, KLA members yesterday handed over the body of the Serb, who was taken hostage last week. They released his companion, who had been badly beaten.

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Both Serbs were from Velika Hoca, a ingredient in securing accep-Serb enclave on a hill held by the KLA. The two were kidnapped after the seizure last week of three Albanians, two of whom were found dead yesterday. ■ The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, who begins a three-day visit to Russia today will at-

contribute troops to Kosovo something seen as a crucial tance by the Yugoslay President, Slobodan Milosevic, of a foreign peace keeping force. But Mr Cook will have to overcome Russian hostility to the overall Nato command of the force demanded by alliance





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TREET LIFE

CHENY LAND

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

BUSINESS

GEC pays £1.3bn for

BRIEFING

House prices fall in February

UK HOUSE prices fell by 0.5 per cent last month, according the latest figures from Halifax, taking the annual rate of libuse price inflation down to 3.6 per cent. Halifax said Med Helimia nem pala February's fall in house prices offset the 0.4 per cent rise in January, and warned that the market was going through an unsettled period.

In the longer term, however, Halifax is relatively bullish about house prices, estimating that house price inflation would reach 4 per cent by the final quarter of 1999. The average price paid for a house in the UK last month was £78,004, Halifax said.

Hays to spend £200m in Europe



HAYS, the support services group, is planning to spend £200m on acquisitions in Europe this year.

The group, whose interests cover the distribution, personnel and document handling sectors, is looking principally at private businesses to add to its £92m acquisition spree in the first half of its financial year. Hays

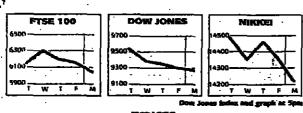
yesterday reported a 20 per cent increase in first-half profits to £110m, with the personnel division raising profits by 30 per cent. Ronnie Frost, the chairman (pictured), said he did not expect to see a recession in

SAB edges to premium on debut SHARES IN South African Breweries edged to a small premium on their first day of trading on the London stock

SAB, the world's fourth-largest brewer, which is moving its primary stock market listing to London, placed 35 million shares at 428p, raising £150m. The shares touched 460p before closing at 447p.

The company, whose brands include Castle beer, is valued at £3.5bn at yesterday's closing price, making it a candidate for inclusion in the FTSE 100 index.

STOCK MARKETS



			INDI	CES .			
	index	Close	Change C	mage(%)	\$2 wit Night	52 wk lew Y	
	FTSE 100	6060.90	-114,20	-1.85	6319.80	4599.20	2.65
	FTSE 250	5258,40	10.10	0.19	5970.90	4247.60	3,21
	FTSE 350	2878.50	-45,00	-1.54	2978,70	2210.40	2.73
	FTSE All Share	2784.05	-41,33	-1,46	2886.52	2143.53	2.77
٠	FTSE SmallCap	2278.60	1.30	0.06	2793.80	1834.40	3.54
	FTSE Fledgling	1248.40	4,80	0.39	1517.10	1046.20	4.43
	FTSE AIM	829.60	6,10	0.74	1146.90	761.30	1,15
	FTSE Eurotop 100	2770,66	-33,79	-1,21	3079.27	2018.15	2.13
	FTSE Eurotop 300	1207.92	-14.71	-1,20	1332,07	880.53	2.00
	Dow Jones .	9291.09	-15.76	-0.17	9647.96	7400,30	1.67
•	Nikke	14221,75	145.79	-1,02	17352.35	12787.90	1.00
	Hang Song	10020.46	161,97	1,64	11926,16	6544.79	3.49
_	Dax	4784.31	-127.50	-2,60	6217.83	3833,71	1.96
-	56P 500	1229.82	-8.53	-0.69	1283.91	923.32	1,29
ì	Nasdag	2273.59	-14,17	-0.52	2533.44	1357,09	0.29
ŀ	Toronto 300	6272.10	-39.99	-0.63	7837.70	\$320.90	1,71
ŀ	Brazil Bovespa	9045.45	134,73	1.51	12339.14	4575.69	6.85
ĺ	Belgium Bel20	3300.03	-61,85	-1,84	<u> 3713.21</u>	2695.72	2.15
ŀ	Amsterdam Bech	527.31	-8,81	-1,64	600.65	366.58	1.95
l	France CAC 40	4032.05	-60.89	-1,49	4404.94	2881.21	1.96
I	Milan MIB30	34768.00	-287.00	-0.62	39170.00	24175,00	1.1B
ı	Madrid Ibex 35	9838.90	-158.40	-1.56	10989.80	6869.90	1.79
	Insh Overes	5308.23	-27.62	-0.52	5581,70	3732.57	1,53
Ì	5 Norea Comp	520.06	0.00	0.00	651.95	277.37	0.18
	Australia ASX '	2911.10	31.20	1.08	2948.70	2386,70	3,17

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INTEREST RATES

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Index	1 march	Tr che	· I West	Yr dag	10 year	Yr dig I	Long bond	Yr chg
UK		2.12	5.36	-2.21	4.62	-1.47	4.55	-1,47
US	5,03	-0.65	5.38	-0 41	5.39	0.31	5.67	0.35
Japan	0.28	-0.54	0.30	-0.43	1.92	0.02	3.04	0,52
Germany		-0.42	3.08	-0,58	4.11	-0.85	5.05	-0.46

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TOURIST RATES

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Australia (\$) 2.4928 Mexican (nuevo-peso) 14.45 Austrua (schilkings) 19.39 Netherlands (guilders) 3.1080 Beigium (francs) 56.99 New Zealand (\$) 2.9297 Canuda (\$) 2.3478 Norway (kroner) 12.31 Canus (pounds) 0.8157 Portugal (escudos) 281.03
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US telecoms supplier

Business Editor GEC YESTERDAY made its first strategic move since the sale of its Marconi defence electronics business to British Aerospace by

announcing the £1.3bn purchase

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

of a US telecommunications equipment supplier The acquisition of Ohio-based RELITEC is being financed from GEC's £2.7bn cash mountain. The move is its first foray into the American telecoms market - the biggest in the world, accounting for half of all global traffic.

Lord Simpson, chief executive of GEC, described the purchase as "a good first step" and said the group planned to move quickly to build sales back up to the £11bn level they were at before the BAe-Marconi merger.

GEC is paying \$29.50 a share for RELTEC, which is 80 per cent-owned by the US buyout specialists Kohlberg Kravis Roberts. This represents two times sales of \$1bn (£610m) a year and a 36 per cent premium to RELITEC's closing price on Friday, Once the deal is completed,

half GEC's turnover will be in the US. Telecoms will represent about 60 per cent of group sales. The RELTEC purchase will

give GEC access to the "local loop" - the last-mile connection to domestic and residential customers that is growing at a phenomenal rate because of the explosion in data, video and voice traffic. Lord Simpson indicated that

GEC's next acquisition was likely to be a hi-tech US business supplying equipment for Internet access. But he also said he was keen to expand GEC's pres-



GEC chief Lord Simpson described the RELITEC takeover as 'a good first move' into the US telecoms market

ence in Europe, particularly in TEC's presence in the local the German telecoms market.

RELITEC has 6,600 employees, net debt of \$490m and assets of \$361m. The acquisition will lead to a goodwill charge of about \$1.7bn taken against profits. GEC said the deal would be earnings enhancing from day one before goodwill.

GEC expects to achieve additional sales of at least £500m by combining its transmission

access market through telecoms operators such as Ameritech, AT&T and several of the US "baby Bells".

Following the Marconi defence electronics sell-off, GEC consists of three divisions communications, information systems and a rump of busisses including its Hotpoint domestic appliances joint venture and Avery Berkel weighing equipment business with REL machines, grouped together

Although communications is likely to be the focus of GEC's growth, Lord Simpson said the group also aimed to build up the information systems division. This consists primarily of three US businesses - Gilbarco petrol pumps, Picker medical imaging equipment and Videojet, which

Lord Simpson dismissed reports of a rift between himself and GEC finance director John

together employ around 10,000.

under the GEC Capital banner Mayo as "fantasy" and "a load of nonsense". He said: "John is an exciting guy to work with who deserves a huge pat on the back. Personally, we also get on very, very well."

He said he remained hopeful that the £7.7bn BAe-Marconi deal would escape referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, but the RELTEC deal was not dependent on the defence merger being approved.

capital-backed newspaper

group whose titles include the

Yorkshire Post, which has al-

ready had a 200p a share cash

figures published by the Bank of England provided further evidence the UK economy could be on course for a soft landing.

indicated that sales should contimue to grow.

in Europe, analysts said the European Central Bank seemed unlikely to cut rates on Thursday following stronger-than-expected money supply figures and hawkish comments from

Christian Noyer, ECB vicepresident, said there seemed no reason to cut interest rates "at

Mirror rejects £972m Trinity bid dent Media (RIM), the venture

MIRROR GROUP yesterday By Peter Thal Larsen raised the stakes in the takeover battle for the national newspaper publisher when it rejected a £972m bid from Trinity, the regional newspaper

group, as "madequate". Mirror dismissed the bid, in not offering its shareholders a as chairman of the combined sufficient premium to reflect a group. Mr Graf said he still change of control of the comboost when Phillips & Drew, the deputy chief executive of the fund manager that has a 23 per cent stake in the company and has previously indicated its sympathy for Trinity's offer,

Trinity decided to press ahead and announce its offer He also said Mirror Group's 20 yesterday after talks between the two companies broke down at the weekend. Earlier this and newspaper group, was a year Trinity and Mirror called strategic asset. "It is not part off talks about a merger be- of our acquisition strategy to tween the two after opposition sell bits of the group." from David Montgomery, the former Mirror chief executive 0.35 new shares and 40p in

supported the board's stance.

who stepped down in January. Philip Graf, the group's chief executive, insisted the company was not making a hostile bid. However, he withdrew an earlier offer to Sir Victor Blank, the form of cash and shares, as Mirror's chairman, to take over wanted to make John Alwood. pany. The decision received a Mirror's new chief executive, new company. Mr Graf said he was "sur-

prised" at the speed of Mirror's response, which was unlikely to have given the company time to canvass shareholder opinion. per cent shareholding in Scottish Media Group, the television

Trinity's offer consists of



Sir Victor Blank (left), Mirror Group chairman, and Philip Graf, chief executive of bidder Trinity

cash for every Mirror share. Mirror shares at 213p each. Mir-Trinity shares rose by 9p to 495p yesterday, helped by a strong set of preliminary results for 1998 that showed underlying ror on Thursday when the compre-tax profits rising by 13.4 per cent to £83.8m. At yesterday's closing price the offer values

ror shares closed up 9p at 203p. Mr Alwood is expected to set out his strategic view for Mir-

pany publishes its preliminary results. The company is still talking to Regional Indepen-

offer for Mirror rejected. RIM is this week expected to ask the Department of Trade and Industry to refer its interest in Mirror to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, triggering an investigation which is likely to take more than three months. Any bid by Trinity would also have to be cleared by the MMC, although the company has yet to decide whether

it will pursue its offer. Mr Graf insisted that an offer giving investors shares in the combined company would be more attractive in the long term, "Shareholders have a choice; they can cash out or stay in a business of this nature, this size, and this opportunity. We believe we can convince institutions this is the right thing to do." he said.

Upbeat surveys make rate cut unlikely

BY LEA PATERSON

THE WORST could be over for UK manufacturing, according to the latest figures from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, fanning specula-tion that the Bank of England will leave interest rates unchanged tomorrow following its monthly rate-setting meeting.

Near-record consumer credit numbers provided further evidence of the UK's improving economic prospects, and the FTSE tumbled almost 115 points as investors reassessed the outlook for interest rates.

Sterling strengthened 0.5p to 68p against the euro, and also made up ground against the dollar. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones was trading lower in the early afternoon following the release of stronger-than-expected US data.

In the UK, the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply survey of manufacturing found signs of stronger demand. particularly for exports.

The CIPS Purchasing Managers' Index - an indicator of overall activity in the sector rose 1.5 points to 45.5, its highest level since last September.

As the PMI remains below its neutral level of 50, the manufacturing sector remains in decline, CIPS said, But the rise in the index between January and February suggests that the pace of decline has slowed.

Speaking last night at a KPMG profitability seminar, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said: "We expect the slowdown to be comparatively mild and short-lived."

Separate consumer credit

in January to £1.4bn, almost double December's level, and there was a near-record rise in the value of bank loans and overdrafts. Analysts said the data was consistent with January's bounce-back in retail sales and

Meanwhile, in the US, rate cut hopes were dealt another blow by robust manufacturing and income data. American incomes grew strongly in January, while the US Purchasing Managers' Index for manufacturing surged back over the critical 50 mark for the first time in nine months.

ECB officials.

the moment".

First Choice Holidays receives bid approach

solidation in Britain's holiday industry increased yesterday when First Choice Holidays revealed that it has received ap-

First Choice, Britain's third largest tour operator, said the talks were "highly conditional" and that it would make a further announcement in due course. First Choice shares rose 24.5p to 180p, valuing the company at

THE PROSPECT of further con- BY NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

Preussag, the German travel group which is taking control proaches that could lead to a bid. of the Thomas Cook travel agency business, has been seen as a possible bidder for First Choice, which only has a small retail presence.

Preussag acquired a 24.9 per cent stake in Thomas Cook before Christmas and will take its holding to 51 per cent by Sep-

they mean by a preliminary approach," a Preussag spokes-Thomson Holidays and Air-

tours could also be interested. But these two companies are already ranked numbers one and two in Britain's travel industry and a bid from either could trigger an Office of Fair Trading in-

everyone and it's not clear what 1993 when the business was

investigation into the travel industry in 1997 gave the sector and Hayes & Jarvis, the longa clean bill of health saying it haul holiday specialist. was highly competitive and that further consolidation was likely. Airtours made an unsuc- That led to a spate of deals last der, said there was likely to be signed a deal with the Co-op.

called Owners Abroad. The deal was cleared by the competition authorities but failed when First Choice is third behind shareholders supported the Owners Abroad management.

A Monopolies and Mergers

had feared they would be forced to sell or reduce the size of their high street travel agencies.

Thomson and Airtours in Britain's top three tour operators. It owns the Air 2000 airline

Analysts, who also men-

tember. "Everyone talks to cessful bid for First Choice in year as the major travel firms keen interest in the business. "There will be a lot of people who want a seat at the table on this one." one said.

> First Choice is half-way through a three-year re-structuring programme under Ian Clubb. Last year it reported and last June acquired Unijet profits of £50m on sales of £1.2bn.

The company is starting to build up a travel agency business and bought a West Countioned Kuoni as a potential bid- try chain last year. It has also

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

UK SHARES took a tumble yesterday, hit by growing worries over the direction of British and US interest rates. The FTSE 100 index closed 114.2 points lower at 6,060.9, as dealers worried that the Bank of England would leave rates unchanged tomorrow.

A pick-up in a manufacturing survey reinforced fears that the recent round of rate cuts would grind to a halt. An opening loss on Wall Street amid fears of a rate hike by the Fed also helped dampen sentiment.

NEW YORK

US SHARES opened lower, with stronger-than-expected data on manufacturing and incomes sparking concern about interest rate rises.

However, shares began to claw back ground, with gains in banks and brokerages offsetting losses elsewhere. By midafternoon the Dow Jones was trading 27.16 points up at 9,333.74. The Nasdaq composite

was up 9 points at 2,297.08. The robust economic data undermined the bond market.

TOKYO

TOKYO STOCKS ended lower, with worries about export earnings depressing the Nikkei 225 index, which fell by 145.79 points, or 1.01 per cent, to 14,221.75. Export-led firms - including Nikon and NEC came under pressure after the dollar weakened further against the yen in Tokyo trade. Unwinding

corporate cross-holdings ahead of

the year-end also dented prices.

Trading volumes were light, with 420 million shares changing bands, compared with 469 million

BOMBAY

SHARES SOARED by 3.7 per cent to a nine-month index high of 3,523.98 on the back of Saturday's budget. Analysts said shares would rise further this week after the central bank cut interest rates after trading ended, although some warned that the bull market was "looking too good", with most of Bombay's 30-share exchange index likely to hit circuit levels

Most markets are closed today for the Holi festival.

FRANKFURT

GERMAN SHARES fell by more than 2 per cent, with mixed corporate earnings and fears of a US rate rise weighing on sentiment. The electronicallytraded Xetra Dax closed down 124.89 points, or 2.55 per cent, at 4.779.07. The floor Dax fell 2.6 per cent to 4,784.31 points. Deutsche Telekom was the only large-cap gainer following speculation about new investment overseas.

Meanwhile the German business community continued to protest at planned tax reforms.

IN BRIEF

BoE's forum for hi-tech finance THE BANK of England is to

convene a new forum next month to discuss the financing of hi-tech companies. It will bring together institutional investors, venture capitalist

and hi tech businesses to discuss barriers to equity investment in the sector. Announcing the move last night, governor Eddie George said the Bank was

also concerned about the stock underperformance of small quoted companies. Sage buys Tetra SAGE, the accounting software group, yesterday

announced its third deal this

Tetra, the business software

values the company at £76m

products would help fill a gan

in the company's mid-market

range. Sage would also be

distribution for the products

in France, Germany and the

Paul Walker, Sage's chief

year with the takeover of

supplier, for a mixture of

shares and cash which

executive, said Tetra's

able to offer better

Morse price

United States.

Sun Life

may sell

off GRE

business

SUN LIFE and Provincial Hold- BY ANDREW GARFIELD

ings, which last month cata-

pulted itself into third place in

the UK general insurance

league with the £3.4bn takeover

of Guardian Royal Exchange,

said yesterday that it is consid-

ering selling GRE's life business.

£435m of premium income last

year and employs 1,200 staff.

GRE shareholders, has also increased its estimate of annual

savings likely to flow from the

integration of the GRE busi-

Mark Wood, Sun Life chief

executive, said yesterday the

group would not be integrating

GRE's life activities with its

existing life and pensions oper-

ations, and has instead placed

the business in strategic review.

but majority owned by AXA.

the French insurance giant -

Sun Life – quoted in London

nesses from £50m to £55m.

The operation contributed

Sun Life, which yesterday

sted its offer document to

Financial Editor

respectively.

pre-sold GRE's US and German

businesses ahead of last

month's agreed takeover to Lib-

erty Mutual and AXA Colonia

sale was currently not the most

likely outcome, all options were

being considered. It is hoped to

complete the review in five

months. He said: "We have had

a chance to consider the options.

But at the end of the review we

will have a clear view as to how

attractive part of the entire

GRE operation. The Irish busi-

Mr Wood said the group

income of £220m.

The group is also reviewing

we hope to move forward."

Mr Wood said that, while a

BlackadderH

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Chief executive Mark Wood (left) and chairman Lord Douro announced an 11 per cent fall in SL&P profits to £325.6m

believed that by improving the its options for GRE's Irish busiunderwriting performance in the GRE businesses to the levness, which is the biggest general insurer in Ireland. Some els achieved by Sun Life, the observers said it was the most group would be able to improve returns and meet the demandness has total annual premium ing hurdle rates set by AXA. He said the GRE deal would boost

ance rates remained flat for the next two years.

"This is a turnaround story," he said. "What we believe the deal enables us to do is to achieve economies of scale and compete at ever decreasing levels of margins.' earnings even if general insur-

Sun Life has now completed

the integration of the Sun Life and AXA Equity & Law businesses following the 1997 merger. The group said yesterday that 90 per cent of the original objectives had been met and cost savings were now projected to be running at £47m a year -- £10m more than planned.

Year's operating profits for the group as a whole were up by 14 per cent to £247.1m, with cost savings and a strong performance on the life and asset management sides making up for weaker general insurance; this suffered a £35m underwriting 13.5p a share, an increase of 15 loss. The previous year has per cent.

been restated pro-forma as if

ed for the entire year Pre-tax, the group reported profits down from £363.3m to £325.6m, a fall of 11 per cent. The total dividend for the year is

Equity & Law had been includ-

MORSE, the reseller of computer servers, will price its shares at between 2500 and 300p when it comes to the stock market later this

month, valuing the company at between £306m and Morse is planning to sell 88.8 million shares. 24 million of which will raise new capital for the company, to be spent on expanding its international operations. The group yesterday confirmed it had bought a 34 per cent

Lilleshali slump

shareholding in Partner

LILLESHALL slumped £18.1m into the red last year, compared with a £3.9m profit before tax in 1997, following £17.2m losses on disposals as the company decided to sell off its retail products arm to focus on industrial services.

The group, which last month warned it was in breach of banking covenants with Lloyds, has since agreed new debt terms with the bank, while GE Capital has agreed not to enforce its redemption rights over £3.3m of preference shares in the regular payments as

disposals are completed. Lilleshall shares fell 1p to

Correction

IN SATURDAY'S edition we published a picture of Peter Rawlins, who was described as chief executive at British Energy. The chief executive at British Energy is in fact Peter Hollins. The Independent apologises for

Castrol to give back £280m

SHARES IN Burmah Castrol, By Andrew Verity the lubricants to chemicals group, surged 5 per cent yesterday when the group unveiled and a £280m return of capital to

The group will distribute the capital - £30m more than expected - in May by way of a share split yielding 131p a share. Ordinary shares will be split into new ordinary and capital shares, and the capital shares will be cancelled for cash or loan

Tim Stevenson, chief executive, said: "We took the view last spring that we had an extraor-

dinarily strong balance sheet that from the shareholders' point of view was inefficient. The figure of £280m was the right figure given our ongoing acquisition plans."

Burmah, which makes and distributes fuels and specialist chemicals, was hit last year by the economic troubles of Southeast Asia, the strength of sterling and cost-cutting by the international oil majors.

But the company's results revealed that it had escaped the worst of the harm. While operating profits took a £25m hit from

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the strength of sterling, profits rose by I per cent at constant exchange rates. Mr Stevenson said cost-cutting in Thailand and Malaysia had made up for falls in volumes.

"This demonstrates how resilient our businesses are, given that 1998 was a particularly difficult year in Asia-Pacific, And the results were a lot more robust than a lot of people thought they would be," he said. The shares closed up 44p at

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859p as the City welcomed the return of capital. The group is seeking permission to buy back further shares in the market

Full-year profits, down by 7 per cent at £245.9m, were also better than analysts expected, and the dividend will rise to 43p a share, up by 6 per cent.

Burmah Castrol, no longer classified as an oil business, has also embarked on a major restructuring programme. Instead of geographical divisions the group has created four separate businesses for consumer industrial, commercial and marine markets.

The group will spend £110m initially to achieve savings of £20m to £30m a year. It also plans bolt-on acquisitions to gain market share in Europe and the US.

★ Fawity Towers

Vehicle group allays debt fear

BY ANDREW VERITY

MAYFLOWER, the vehicle engineering group, yesterday provided relief to investors worried about its debt levels following its £278m hostile takeover of Dennis, the bus chassis maker

Mayllower, revealing first fullyear results since the takeover, allayed concerns that it would find it difficult to manage the £281m debt taken on to nake the cash offer.

Shares in Mayflower plummeted when it first announced the audacious bid - trumping an agreed offer from Henlys - because of the debt involved. Yesterday the shares edged

up a penny in a falling market to 155p as Mayflower unveiled a 26 per cent jump in turnover. Strong cash flow allowed the company to report interest cover of four times. Full-year profits were up by

28 per cent to £42.6m, above analysts' predictions. Profits were boosted by a debut contribution from Dennis for two months of the year to December. John Simpson, the chief ex-

ecutive, said: "We drove cash flow better than people expected. Our debt is down and analysts are now writing that we have a strong balance sheet."

Mayflower is stripping out some costs from the merger, closing Dennis's head office. But Mr Simpson said the main objective was to open up new markets. The combination of Dennis, a bus chassis maker, and Mayflower, which makes bodywork, would allow buses to be sold in one piece.

Most analysts upgraded their forecasts yesterday, citing better-than-expected finances and a string of new contracts in the US. They've paid a very full price. But in the long run it looks like the acquisition may work for them," said one.

Scholey steps in at Close Brothers

SIR DAVID SCHOLEY, one of the BY ANDREW GARFIELD City's most prominent merchant bankers, has agreed to step into the breach at Close Brothers after chairman Michael Morley asked to step down early because of illness.

Sir David was at one stage tipped to take over as governor of the Bank of England. As chairman of SG Warburg he negotiated its takeover by Swiss Bank Corporation in 1995. He will take over as non-executive chairman at Close at the annual meeting this autumn.

Rod Kent, chief executive, said yesterday that Mr Morley of the team that bought the bank out from Consolidated Gold Fields in 1979 - had planned to retire next year.

Mr Kent said: "We are very sorry Michael is leaving. But we have in Sir David someone of huge experience to draw on. He was enormously supportive of us in the early days. He personally gave us a lot of encouragement. We are hoping that the wealth of experience he brings will help us grow Close

Financial Editor

Sir David, who also holds non-executive directorships of J Sainsbury Vodafone and the BBC, will continue his role as senior adviser to Warburg Dillon

Mr Kent said the slowdown in the UK economy was continuing, although the climate had improved since last summer's "bloodbath" when the group warned it would not maintain its 24-year record of year-on-year profit growth .

Profits at the half year to 31 per cent to £33.2m pre-tax, although Mr Kent insisted that the fall was on a period that in historic terms was "heroically good", and that the first half was ahead of last year's second half.

He said the group had also turned in a better trading performance than anticipated. Staff costs fell by 5 per cent in spite of an increase in the head count, reflecting lower bonus payouts overall. The dividend payout is 5.3p. up by 10 per cent. The shares fell 32.5p to 665p.

1.3.2

any confusion caused.

COMPANY RESULTS

1	Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (Σ)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
-	Aegls Greap (F)	4.13bn(3.65bn)	50.8m(45.6m)	4.0p(3.8p)	0 85p(0.7p)	01.07.99	07,06.9
•	Aggreko (F)	178.9m(163.3m)	39 3m(33.2m)	9.48p(8.15p)	4.12p(3.77p)	28.05.99	26.01.9
•	AGA Group (F)	6.86m(4 72m)	1.09m(1.880m)	12.12p(10.43p)	5.8p(-)	01,04.99	08.09.9
	865tos (1)	\$2,33be(2,73bs)	310.0m(458.0m)	7.8c(12.0c)	3 5c(3.5c)	16.04.99	08.03.9
	Bisichi Mining (F)	3 (15m(3.75m)	0.209m(0.368m)	1.64p(2.16p)	1.0p(0 9p)	26.08.99	02.989
•	British Polythese ledst. (F)	470,25m(453.79m)	21.55m(23.24m)	36.190(41.210)	21.0p(20.1p)	14,05.99	- Box
	Bornah Castrol (F)	2.840n(2.94bn)	235.0an(251.9an)	60.7p(58.0p)	43.0p(40.5p)	. Cha .	lio-
-	Cafa (I)	44 ()7m(46.40m)	5.521m/4.930mi	8.04p(7.89p)	1.55p(1.45p)	09.64.99	- 15.03.9
	Close Bros. Group (1)	-(-)	33.22m(36.75m)	18.35p(20,15p)	5.30p(4.80p)	16.04.99	15.00
ı	Distan Motors (F)	637,75m(413.56m)	17.01m(8.66m)	26.50(26.30)	9.0p(7.5p)	30.04.99	29.03.9
,	Domestic & General Grp.(I)	49.68m(45.02m)	7.28m(6.65m)	14.38p(13.19p)	4.Qp(3.5p)	06 05.99	29.03.9
FÍ	English China Clays (F)	834 4m(845.3m)	84.4m(88 5m)	21.629(21.769)	5.5p(13.0p)	-	
•	Grafton Group (F)	EUR427.6m(327.61m)	28.2m(23.2m)	149.7c(123.0c)	35.0c(-)	31,03.99	08.03.9
П	Hays (I)	876.9m(734.9m)	110.1m(88.3m)	9.2p(7.40)	2.0p(1.725p)	28.05.99	26.04.9
	Herace Small Apparel(I)*	34.52m(29.25m)	-9.27m(-6.33m)	-27.1p(-18.6p)	uni(-)		4007-0
	Litteshall (2)	94.68m(98.17m)	-18.51m(3.94m)	-66.4p(6.7p)	-(-)		- ·
'	London Fin & Invet.Grp. (1)	•(·)	0.108m(0.170m)	0.51p(0.50p)	43	. [
	Marsballs (F)	253.94m(241,31m)	33.55m(14.47m)	15.70p(2.57p)	7.0p(5.33p)	01.07.99	24.05.9
! !	Mayflower Corp. (F)	495.2m(392.7m)	23.1m(29.2m)	4.7p(8.6p)	3.30p(2.75p)	17.05.99	19.049
,	McBride (I)	248.4m(234.4m)	8.6m(16.2m)	2.9p(6.9p)	2.5p(2.5p)	18.05.99	06.04.9
•	Pendragon (F)	1.272bn(863.67m)	18.56m(15.08m)	21.2p(21.2p)	12.0p(10.7p)	be .	· the ·
,	Redrow Group (1)	161 1m(148.5m)	26.1m(23.2m)	8.6p(7.3p)	1.50(1.350)	21.05.99	06.03.9
ч	Sharwood intri. (F)	42.37m(30.04m)	5.49m(3.09m)	39.9p(23.8p)	6.6p(5.4p)	07.05.99	12.04.9
Н	Sen Life & Providings. (F)	()	325.6m(363.3m)	27.0p(30.0p)	13.5p(11.7p)	14.05.99	08.03.9
١.	Teles (I)	16.46m(13,31m)	1.525m(2.608m)	3 83p(-15.23p)	-(-)		00.40,0
: }	Trinity (F)	342.43m(324.84m)	83.79m(64.06m)	45 4p(31.9p)	14.5p(13.2p)	07.05.99	De'
٠ ا	Witsteam (F)	96.27m(92.82m)	15.04m(14.58m)	40.79o(38 11p)	17.1p(-)	05.05.99	22.03.9
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The European Index-Tracking PEP

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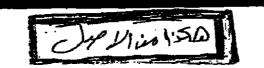
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Bot's forum for High cost of Canary Wharf's success THE BANK OF PERSONS IN IN CONTRACTOR OF THE STATE OF THE

WHAT WITH all the cranes, building work, the chattering of foreign tongues and the general air of conspicuous prosperity and consumption, it feels quite like the 1980s again down here at Canary Wharf, Čeranty you wouldn't believe this was part of near recessionary Britain. The complex now even boasts its very own financial scandal - based around a group of high earning, high living CSFB traders allegedly calling themselves the Flaming Ferraris.

From where we sit, the level of activity is truly astonishing. Looking out from the Independent's City office in the South Eastern corner of the existing Canary Wharf tower, to our immediate left rises the near complete Citigroup office complex. Immediately to the East of that, work has already begun on the Salomon Smith Barney tower, which will eventually be linked to the Citigroup building via a connecting trading floor

To its left, the foundations are being laid in the remains of a disused dock for Britain's largest ever non overnmental office block - the HSBC tower. Looking out towards the City, the high rise cranes litter the horizon. There are luxury hotels, apartments, more offices and more complexes going up right left and nelling of both imprecedented cost,



OUTLOOK

centre. If ever there were a right time to tap the markets for extra money, this would seem to be it. Canary Wharf, in receivership less than seven years ago, is a success at last.

Unfortunately, this fairy tale comeback for Paul Reichmann and his fellow travellers, cannot be said to demand unquestioning admiration. The cost of success, to the taxpayer and other regions that might have benefited from such development, is a high one. To make it work, Canary Wharfhas required the most expensive piece of road ever built the Limehouse link

On top of that comes the Jubilee line extension, a stretch of tun-

and outside servicing the wharf, of rents for new tenants beginning to highly dubious general worth. Without these two pieces of infrastructure, Canary Wharf would still be a millstone round its bankers necks. Massive tax breaks, from which construction of the HSBC tower will continue to benefit, has further subsidised the planned stock market flotation.

Still, it would be churlish to be unduly cynical. We are going to have to await publication of the prospectus to make any kind of investment judgement on this company, but on the face of it, the complex should be capable of attracting quite a following. Today's capital structure is completely different from the one that sunk the venture in the early 1990s. Most banking debt has been securitised against rents, and what remains will be covered by the proceeds of the share sale. Future developments will be fi-

nanced on a highly conservative basis, with the company promising to keep speculative development (where properties are built without tenants to occupy them) to a minimum. The chances of the company going bust again would therefore seem remote. Its longer term prospects are another matter. With approach those of the City, the complex may need to demonstrate attractions other than just the promise of acres of cheap, modern office space to persuade financial institutions to keep moving east.

Mirror Group

هكذا من الاعلى

SO MAYBE David Montgomery was right after all. The Ulsterman was forced to step down as chief executive of Mirror Group in January because be was supposedly blocking a merger between Mirror and Trinity the regional newspaper publisher Yesterday, the Mirror board, minus Mr Montgomery, rejected an in-creased offer from Trinity as inadequate. Even Phillips & Drew, the 23 per cent shareholder which was previously so in favour of a Mirror-Trinity combination, said the offer was too low.

What has changed? A cynical conclusion would be that Sir Victor Blank, Mirror's chairman, has cooled on the prospect of a deal with Trinity now that he is no longer being promised the role of chairman in the combined group. Like Mr Montgomery, he has come to believe that

Trinity should be forced to pay a premium for management control.

There's more to it than that, however. Regional Independent Media. backed by deep-pocketed venture capitalists, has already offered 200p in cash for each Mirror share, and is considering upping its bid. Even after yesterday's share price jump, Trinity's cash-and-shares offer is only worth 213p per Mirror share well short of the 220p-230p that analysts think the company is worth.

Ultimately these are all just skirmishes in what remains a phoney war. The fact is that, until the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has cleared both potential bidders. neither is in a position to launch a firm offer. Given that the MMC investigation will take at least three months, any discussion of value in the meantime is largely futile. RIM is likely to register its inter-

est in Mirror with the Department of Trade and Industry this week, trig-gering the MMC enquiry. The Mirror board needs Trinity to throw its hat in the ring as well, so that there are still two bidders around to force up the price in three months' time. At the end of all this, Mirror shareholders won't tolerate being left

GEC/RELTEC

GEORGE SIMPSON is the corporate equivalent of a certain type of lady driver. He has seen plenty of accidents in the rear-view mirror. First there was DAF which went into receivership just after it bought Leyland Trucks from him.

Then there was BMW, which is only now reaping the whirlwind of having paid 2800m to take Rover off George's hands. Then came Lucas-Varity, which underperformed from the day George left and Victor Rice arrived. Now, alas, it is no more. Maybe British Aerospace will buck the trend, but even so it has undoubtedly paid Lord Simpson a full price for Marconi.

So the chief executive of New GEC, recently ennobled by New Labour, has proved himself a very astute seller of businesses. What the market must now judge is how good Lord Simpson is at buying them.

With £2.7bn in his back pocket - a bigger wad than he inherited from Lord Weinstock - and a further £4bn of credit on tap, it would be easy for him to overpay. Particularly so, when Lord Simpson is plainly in such a home to Scotland at weekends, and hurry to rebuild GEC back to the too mean to overpay.

same size it was before he sold the defence electronics arm to BAe for

The beauty of the Simpson approach is that the market never sees him coming, which reduces the risk of overpaying. Of all the targets GEC was rumoured to be gunning for RELTEC, an American telecoms equipment supplier, was not even on the radar screen. It may be big in Cleveland, Ohio, but it is a closed book to the investment community over here, and there was not a sniff of GEC's interest on the New York market.

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In these days of astronomic valuations in the telecoms sector, paying two times sales for a business which is plugged into the fastest growing sector of the market, the local loop, does not look exorbitant. For his next trick, Lord Simpson has earmarked a US high-tech business with Internet connections.

With the US accounting for half GEC's turnover and growing, and more than 60 per cent of sales tied up in telecoms, Lord Simpson could be forgiven for thinking of doing a Victor and relocating to New York. Luckily, he is too fond of travelling

MoD set to select £750m radar bid

THE MINISTRY of Defence will this week choose between two rival US-led consortia for a £750m airborne radar contract that is expected to secure at east 2,000 jobs in the UK.

> The contest is between Raytheon and a consortium led Shorts of Belfast, is thought to y its US competitor, Lockheed in: fartin, A third bidder comvising British Aerospace in Artnership with Northrop rumman, has fallen out of the

Raytheon and the Lockheed onsortium, which is called TeasASTOR, gave evidence in nmera to MPs on the Defence ielect Committee yesterday. the MoD's equipment approval immittee meets on Thursday a recommend a preferred bidher, and the final decision will nade a fortnight after that

By Michael Harrison Business Editor

by a Cabinet sub-committee chaired by the Prime Minister. The Raytheon consortium,

which includes Marconi and be ahead in the contest, But TeamASTOR is making a late bid to snatch victory, claiming that British expertise in airborne surveillance will be lost abroad if the rival bid is selected.

The export market for the airborne stand-off radar system is put at around £3bn. Galen Ho, chief executive of

Lockheed Martin Tactical Systems, said: "It would be a travesty to move and develop this world class capability offshore. TeamASTOR is the only solu-



of two rival US-led consortia bidding for the Ministry of Defence's £750m airborne radar contract

tion that keeps design authori-

The TeamASTOR consortium also includes Marconi as well as Racal, Logica and Marshall Aerospace. It is promising that 100 per cent of the work will be carried out in the UK, providing 2,000 direct high-tech-

romising to create 2,400 jobs in companies as industrial partners and says that 75 per cent of the radar will be built in Britain.

Raytheon's bid also has the support of the leaders of three unions: Ken Jackson of the

However, Raytheon is AEEU, John Edmonds of the General, Municipal and Boilerthe UK. It has signed up 85 UK makers and Roger Lyons of the

> The airborne stand-off radar will be fitted into high-speed business jets and used to beam surveillance pictures and data back to military commanders in mobile ground stations.

TeamASTOR is offering. Shorts of Belfast manufactures 25 per cent of the Global Express, supporting 700 jobs.

The Raytheon system will be flown in the Bombardier Global

Express aircraft, which it

claims is larger, more modern

and more powerful than the

Gulfstream IV aircraft which

business paper in Germany

Pearson to start

PEARSON AND Bertelsmann, the media giants, yesterday confirmed that they are planning to launch a new German language business newspaper in an attempt to break into the German market. The two companies are

thought to be preparing to envisage that the paper will be breaking even.

as the Financial Times, the mann's newspaper and magazines division, will supply printing and marketing opera-

tions for the paper, which will be based in Frankfurt, Germany's financial centre. However, the paper will have its own staff with Andrew Gowers, formerly the FT's deputy ed-

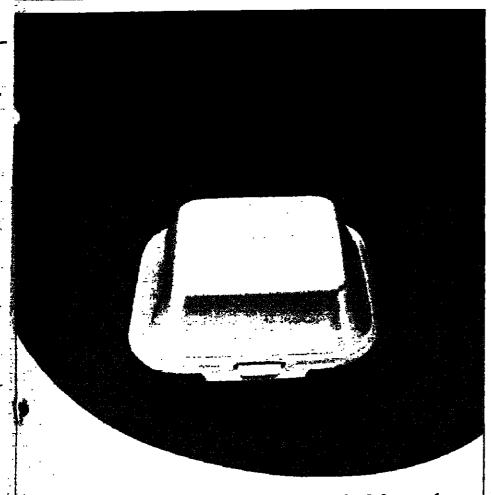
itor, taking the editor's chair. Mr Gowers is now recruiting journalists to work on the paper. The paper is likely to have an editorial staff of between 80 and 100. The move is a new step for

By PETER THAL LARSEN

Pearson, which is in the middle of a £50m investment programme aimed at improving the FT's circulation in the US. The investment has helped lift sales in North America to over 70,000. Although the FT has a re-

spend about £60m over the next spectable circulation in Europe, three years, by which time they sales in Germany have always been low and dominated by a bulk distribution deal with The paper, which is likely to Lufthansa, the German nationbe launched next year, will be al airline. The country currentprinted on the same pink paper ly boasts two German-language daily business titles - Handelsbusiness daily owned by Pear- blatt and Boersen Zeitung son, and will carry the FT brand. while regional titles such as Gruner + Jahr, Bertels- Frankfurter Algemeine Zeitug and Die Welt also have extensive business coverage.

> The new German title will complement the FT Group's business papers in France and Spain. "The success of Les Echos in France and Exponsion in Spain encourages us to believe we can build a profitable and successful German language business newspaper in the world's third largest economy," said Stephen Hill, the FT Group's chief executive, who will also be chairman of the new venture.



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BICC sells telecoms

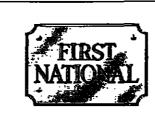
with the surprise sale of its telecommunications cable business to Corning of the US for £82m, writes Michael Harrison.

The sale will further slim BICC down, leaving it with just an energy and data cables division and Balfour Beatty, now specialising in rail maintenance and building management. Analysts were surprised that

BICC had decided to quit the high growth telecoms sector of

tion group, continued yesterday Alan Jones, chief executive, defended the "radical move" on the grounds that BICC did not have the resources to expand the division and invest in the latest optical technologies. He said the deal would reduce the volatility of BICC's earnings

The business, which has 2,000 employees, made a £15m loss last year compared with a £17m profit in 1997, due to a 40 per cent decline in prices and the Asian economic downturn.



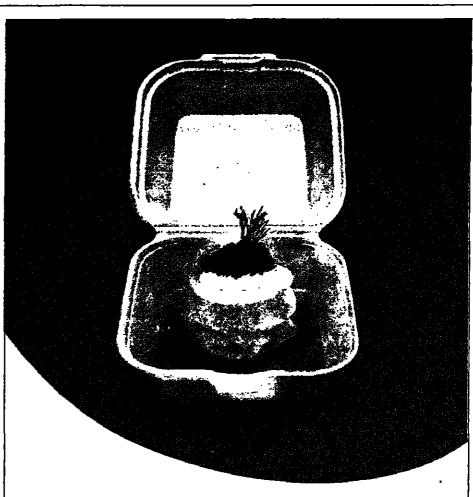
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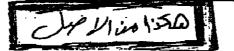
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Rate worries bring Footsie down to earth

INTEREST RATE worries, one of the market's favourite bugbears, returned to haunt Footsie yesterday, dragging the index down from last week's heady heights.

Blue chips were hit hard by a classic interest rate double whammy, as dealers started the week fretting about monetary policy on both sides of the

Red numbers invaded the dealings rooms' screens amid a growing belief that the Bank of England will put an end to the rate cut bonanza of the last few months tomorrow.

That rate-on-hold feeling was given a further boost by a relatively benign manufacturing sector survey. Across the pond, the odds of a Federal Reserve tightening are shortening by the minute and the latest batch of economic data has given the bears plenty of ammunition.

Footsie was caught in the crossfire, tumbling 1142 points to 6,060.9. The blue-chip index has now fallen back to the levels reached before last week's and the Swiss drug group Norecord-breaking rally.

OFEX-LISTED Po Na Na. an operator of African theme bars, rose 2p to 102.5p after it unveiled merger talks with the rival chain, Break for the Border, up 1.5p at 42p. Break for the Border will have to pay more than £20m to take control of Po Na Na, which owns 15 venues across the country.

The African bars' company floated in 1996 and has a market value of £21m. It has talked to other quoted companies. which could enter the fray if the BfB talks collapse.

Banks and insurers, one of the drivers of the recent outperformance, led the retreat. Sellers were encouraged to book in profits by the end of the esixis season and the ex-div idend dates of a number of financial stocks.

Abbey National was an example of the ex-divi carnage, dropping 66p to 1187p. Halifax followed suit, ending 32p lower at 735p. NatWest was also a prominent constituent of the ex-divi brigade, tumbling 42p to 1250p. Royal Bank of Scotland was hit by profit taking and showed a 68p deficit to 1,150 - the biggest Footsie faller of the day.

The Woolwich unravelled. losing 13.5p to 381.5p as Credit Lyonnais advised a switch to Northern Rock, down 3.5p to 4880, Among the insurers, Sun Life & Provincial rose 2 per cent in early trade after good results before succumbing to the financials' bloodbath. The life assurer, currently buying GRE, finished 3p off at 486.5p.

GEC provided a glimpse of blue in Footsie's red sea. The \$2.1bn buy of the US telecom operator Reltec was given the thumbs-up by the market and the stock rang up a 18p rise to 516p. More is still to come as GEC looks to spend the £7.7bn received from British Aerospace for its Marconi sub-Smiths Industries, the

MARKET REPORT

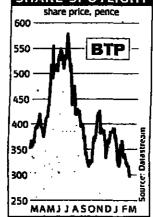
FRANCESCO **GUERRERA**

aerospace group, was another high-flyer, reaching a dizzy 26.5p advance to 973p as it draws up plans for a £1bn acquisition spree.

The Footsie hopeful South African Breweries kicked off its London career with a 19p rise to 447p. Most of the early froth was wiped off in later trading as SG, among others, said sell. BT fell 17p to 1063p despite being tipped in a new Goldman Sachs portfolio, which also includes Unilever

Supermarkets were left on the shelves as rumours of an earnings-threatening price war grew louder. Asda, unchanged at 155.5p, is apparently preparing an assault on its rivals by slashing grocery prices. The campaign is tipped to hit Tesco, down 4.7 per cent to 168.75p, and Safeway, 6p lower at 262.25p. J Sainsbury,

1p higher at 361.5p, and SHARE SPOTLIGHT share price, pence



Somerfield, up 5.5p at 380p, are seen as more resilient.

Marks & Spencer kept falling from grace and ended an undignified 8.25p lower at Footsie, fell 5.5p to 84.5p. 411.25p. The retailer was on the receiving end of a 70-page "sell" note by the broker West-LB. The title of the pamphlet "It's going to be painful" said it all.

No such doom and gloom among the undercard. The FTSE 250 got one over its bigger brother, rising 10.1 to 5,258.4, the Small Cap scraped 1.3 higher to 2,278.6.

Bid speculation and good results caused all the joy. First takeover. Choice, the tour operator, trav-The talk is of a bid at between 175p and 180p with the UK ri- Pacific at 10.25p. vals Airtours, up 18.5p to 495p and Thomson, which rose 59.5p to 100.5p after a profit 11.5p to 180.5p, among the

favourites. The German Preussag, which has a stake in Thomas Cook, and the Swiss travel group Kuoni Reisen could provide the foreign opposition.

The Mirror bid potboiler was given new impetus. The red-topped paper's shares rose a headline-grabbing 9p to 203p, after it rejected a 210p a share offer by Trinity. The bid put the heat on Regional Independent Media, the regional publisher, and the backer

Candover to increase their

200p approach. RMC built a 29.5p advance to 709p as JP Morgan said "buy". A bid for fellow building materials producer Alexander Russell, up 15p at 137.5p, is near. No bid fluff for Aggreko. The power hire group, once part of Christian Salvesen, surged 15p to 198p simply because it posted good

No such luck for BTP. The much-restructured chemicals group plunged 20p to a fiveyear low of 296.5p. The tumble put it on top of the mid-cap's list of fallers as sellers stepped

in ahead of the results season. Some of its rivals fared little better, with Laporte down 18p to 547.5p and Yule Catto down 0.5p to 250.5p. The chemistry between the market and

MIXED NEWS for Chiroscience. The biotechnology company soared 8.5p to 234p on news that its anaesthetic Chirocaine is due to be approved by the US drug regulator. However, the product was dropped by Zeneca, the pharmaceutical giant, to appease the EU

regulators that approved its merger with Astra. Chiroscience is on the look-out for a new partner and in the meantime

Zeneca will pay for the

development of the drug.

the sector is all wrong and at these bargain-basement levels bids are more than likely. Burmah Castrol was the notable exception, putting on 44n to 859n after promising a £280m return of cash to shareholders and reporting good

BICC got out of its awful telecommunications cables business, with \$133m in cash, but the shares, once in the

Close Brothers, the blueblooded bank, bled 32.5p to 632.5p despite good results and the appointment of former Warburg's supremo David Sc-

holey as the new chairman. Horace Small, a uniformmaker, was the market's best stock in the market, posting a 54 per cent advance to 79.5p after selling its operating business and becoming a cash shell ready for a reverse

Trio, the money broker, elled 16 per cent higher to 180p, cashed in a 2p rise to 9.25p after admitting an approach. after Nittan Capital bought almost 30 per cent from Regent

> ComputerInd crashed warning, while Synstar, the computer services company, shed another 20p to 138.5p. It was floated on Friday at 165p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 867.2 million SEAQ TRADES: 81,042 GILTS INDEX: 112.90 -0.74

www.bloomberg.com/uk

INVESTMENT

Billiton down 34% as Aegis set for £70m aluminium price falls US buying spree

BILLITON: AT A GLANCE

Associate City Editor

BILLITON, the mining group, reported a 34 per cent fall in first-half profits to £190m yesterday and warned that continued weakness in the aluminium price could affect the full-year figures.

Aluminium accounts for 41 per cent of Billiton's profits and the three month price has fallen to \$1180 per tonne, the low-est aluminium price ever in real terms. Average commodity prices in January are contiming to run below those of the same month last year, although Billiton feels prices may have bottomed out.

"It's very hard to see prices getting a lot weaker than they are today. But the situation probably isn't going to improve dramatically in the immediate future," said Brian Gilbertson. chairman and chief executive.

Billiton shares have been threatened with relegation from the FTSE100 index, with the newly-floated South African Breweries poised to gain entry. That would place further pressure on the share price.

But recent strength - the shares only dipped a penny to 134.5p on yesterday's figures may have saved the group from expulsion from the Blue um, coal and steel although the on the agenda. Some \$1.5bn has

OCEAN GROUP, the interna-

tional freight and logistics com-

pany, saw its share price fall by

5 per cent yesterday as the mar-

ket absorbed the impact of the

worldwide slowdown in

After a strong run in the past

two weeks, the shares came off

380 to close at 804p, in spite of

a 13 per cent jump in profits

achieved through careful con-

John Allan, chief executive,

said the group had been hit by

the strength of sterling and

continuing weakening of ex-

port markets in the developing

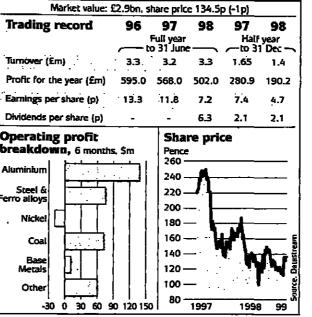
"Export volumes have weak-

world and South-east Asia.

ened in markets that are si:

demand for freight.

trol of margins.



chip index when the FTSE indices committee meets next

Billiton is seen by analysts as a less balanced exposure to the mining sector than rival Rio Tinto, which reported only a 10 per cent dip in profits last week. The company is less well understood in the City and is dominated by alumini-

pick-up in volumes in the sec-

ond half of the year," Mr Allan

Unlike rival freight compa-

nies - typically restricted to one

part of the globe - Ocean has

succeeded in marketing its ser-

vices to 99 per cent of the

world's economies, allowing it

to give multinationals a single

port of call for freight services.

slowdown, the company has

been able to increase profits by

taking advantage of a glut of air-

line capacity offered by in-

ternational carriers. Mr Allan

has pursued a strategy of be-

coming one of the world's

In spite of the worldwide

group said yesterday that it could use its \$2bn warchest to become more diversified. It is looking at moving into iron ore, increasing its copper interests and adding to its coal operations.

It has already had a busy six months buying out minority shareholders in some of its interests and more buy-outs are

months as the company seeks to take advantage of low asset prices. Unit operating costs have been cut by 15 per cent although analysts say there is little fat left to cut.

a worse stage for Billiton, which spun off from the South African Gencor group in the summer of 1997.

funds could start buying back in as they forecast the aluminium price. Already two US value funds, Franklin and Capital, have built disclosable holdings. This should provide beleaguered shareholders with some hope that the turn is not

But this optimism should be

On full-year profit forecasts of £211m the shares trade on a

been invested in the last six BY PETER THAL LARSEN AEGIS, the media planning group, is preparing to spend up to £70m on acquisitions this year as it seeks to build up its

The cycle could hardly be at

But analysts say that hedge

tempered by a potential stock overhang. Some of the large South African shareholders such as the International Development Corporation of South Africa have said they want to reduce their holding. And Kleinwort Benson, which advised on the float, also apparently has a 2.5 per cent stake which may find its way onto the market.

forward multiple of 14. A decent hold, analysts say, although

the price it pays for space and

to boost profit margins, large-

ly making up for the fall in total

The company, which com-

pleted a £103m cash return to

shareholders in December, is

also planning to spend £173m

on acquisitions in Europe and

Damian Brewer, an analyst

with Paribas, the investment

house, said: "We have Asia be-

ginning to show the first signs

of recovery and airlines are the

first to gear up for that. So there

is a lot of extra capacity, which

"There is still pressure on

allows for bigger margins.

volumes.

the US

company believes it could comfortably cope with £50m of debt. Mr Davis said Aegis was preparing to invest in a series Freight slowdown buffets Ocean

of joint ventures in Japan, China and Taiwan, at a cost of about £10m. But he added that the company would hand back the money to its shareholders if it could not find suitable targets. He was speaking as Aegis

presence in the United States

and extend its network into

executive, said the company

was looking for bolt-on acqui-

sitions in the US, which would

help it achieve its target of

becoming the market leader

over the next five years. "The

US is 40 per cent of the world

advertising market," he said.

"We've made a very encour-

In January, Aegis estab-

lished itself as a major player

in the US by winning an ac-

count with Pfizer, the phar-

maceuticals giant, worth

\$280m (£173m) in annual

billings. However, Mr Davis

said the group was still too

small to pitch for the largest

accounts awarded by the likes

of Coca-Cola, Disney and Gen-

Aegis has accumulated a

cash pile worth £36.9m, helped

by its strong cash flow, but the

aging start, but the upside is

enormous.'

eral Motors.

Crispin Davis, Aegis chief

emerging markets.

reported an 11 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £50.6m for the year to December, on turnover up by 13 per cent to £4.13bn. The figures, which lifted

Aegis shares 2.5p to 123p, prompted analysts to edge up their profit forecasts to £59.5m.

Mr Davis said he expected the global advertising market to grow by 4.5 per cent this year. Meanwhile, the explosion of digital television and the Internet would continue to price in the short term. But in the drive up demand for Aegis's value-added research ser vices, helping the company to But we do anticipate some giving the company consider- allowed Ocean to bargain down a good long-term play," he said. lift its gross margins.

High-rise hero back home

DAN FRANK can boast that he supervised the construction of the tallest building in Europe and then did the same with the tallest building in the world.

Mr Frank is a senior member of the Canary Wharf construction team, and is now heavily involved in the London Docklands development's latest

splurge of building. In the 1980s he helped oversee the building of One Canada Square, which when completed was Europe's tallest building (now it's only the tallest in the UK). In 1992 Canary Wharf went

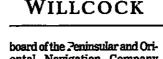
into administration, emerging three years later. Mr Frank spent the "quiet years' in Kuala Lumpur project-managing Petronas Towers, far and away the tallest building in the world.

Aboard at P&O CONGRATS TO Baroness Hogg

Source: Bloombers

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

By John WILLCOCK



ental Navigation Company (P&O) as a non-executive director. How fitting that she should join a company chaired by that arch-Tory, Lord Sterling. She is, of course, married to Douglas Hogg, John Major's favourite agriculture minister during the BSE crisis.

As plain Sarah Hogg she was the first business and City editor of this very organ. She then became head of the prime minister's policy unit from 1990 to 1995, the era of the Citizen's Charter, and was in part responsible for the Cones Hotline, when angry drivers could phone up and complain about too many cones on the road.

Her other main claim to fame is that she bought her huson her appointment to the band Douglas the floppy hat a P&O spokesman says.



John Allan: Expects the

second half to pick up FT

able buying muscle when it

purchases space from airlines.

nificant for us, including the UK. largest buyers of airline space, ate to sell their capacity, this has tential for recovery, making this

that he wore as a minister and which was much derided by the

She is also chairman of London Economics, the consultancy set up by John Kay, who went off last year to head up the Said Business School at Oxford University.

Baroness Hogg is the fourth new non-exec to be taken on by Lord Sterling over the past year. Two non-execs are standing down, Sir Peter Cazalet, a former deputy chairman of BP. and John Steele, a retired civil servant who was once directorgeneral of the transport directorate of the European Commission.

Meanwhile Lord Sterling, 63, goes on and on. "There is no fixed date for his retirement,"

Tony says ta VISITORS TO the offices of

With Asian airlines desper- long term there is strong po-

supplies computer services to insurance companies, can see for themselves how highly esteemed the business is by New Labour. Pinned to the noticeboard

inside the offices at 120 Old Broad Street in the City is a recent letter from Tony Blair thanking Sherwood for its role in developing a "cow passport" programme.

The programme was needed to identify which cows had to be culled during the BSE crisis. Apparently the letter is chief executive officer George Matthews's pride and joy.

Trained boffins

THE VARIOUS eggheads. boffins and geeks who inhabit the life sciences industry are about to get a media makeover, if a new training consultancy has its way.

A firm called One Events

media training master class for the men and women in white coats. The two-day pro-Sherwood International, which gramme will include "the secrets of successful crisis management", which would no doubt appeal to employees of British Biotech. Then there's "a case study on Dolly the Sheep, focusing on the strategic thinking behind the announcement".

Life Sciences has launched a

Scots' lament

BUMP INTO any Scottish rugby fans, and they'll say that if Scotland had kicked their penalties against the Auld Enemy two weeks ago at Twickenham, they would have won. They'll probably add: "If only Gavin Hastings was still doing the kicking."

Mr Hastings now runs his own sports marketing company, Hastings International. Yesterday he joined Joslin Rowe Associates, a recruitment firm, as a non-executive director.

E-mail: j.willcock@indepen-

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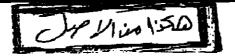
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SPORT

European Cup quarter-final: Manchester United face an Internazionale No 10 who still has a master's touch

Greatness has a last flowering in Baggio

AFTER 20 minutes of unrelenting pressure from their visitors on Saturday night, Internazionale finally let Juventus know that there were two sides on the San Siro pitch. And it was one man's doing.

Roberto Baggio, formerly the world's greatest player, had started the game by disappearing into the long shadow of Zinedine Zidane, currently the world's greatest player. The battle of the two No 10s had been going so badly for the little Italian that when he was called to take a sixth-minute free-kick outside the Juventus area, he couldn't even manage to lift it over Zidane, who was standing the regulation distance away - the most banal error imaginable. But eventually he did something to remind Zidane, and the rest of us, of why, five years ago, he was untouchable

Collecting the ball near the lefthand touchline, midway inside the Juventus half, he advanced on Antonio Conte, the Turin team's all-purpose midfielder, and Alessandro Birindelli, the resolute right-back. Slowing to a stroll, he drew them towards him. A short ball inside seemed a good idea. Instead, with a sway of his hips and a double-shuffle, he had left both men sitting on their pants and was accelerating towards the penalty area. The crowd gasped with delight. Next came Ciro Ferrara, Juve's experienced libero, who advanced to meet the threat but was dismissed with a dip of the shoulder and a sudden dart. A third magpie fell to earth.

And then the gods cried enough, as Baggio's short ball into the goalmouth was smothered in a tangle of bodies. But it had been an unforgettable moment, a vivid cameo of greatness in its last flowering.

Baggio produced a few more pearls as Inter came back into the game in the second half, but he couldn't manage to break the stalemate in a scrappy game. A couple of beautiful passes to Nicola Ventola, the young substitute centreforward, might have produced a goal, and Baggio himself was only centimetres away from connecting with a wonderful diagonal ball from another substitute, Andrea Pirlo, who will be his successor in the team. But justice was served on a team undeserving of more than a point.

In the midst of a frustrating season, with their team in sixth place in Serie A despite a series of effective performances in the Champions' League, Inter's supporters are taking some consolation from Baggio's efforts. The player, too, is enjoying a return to the spotlight after several unsatisfactory seasons. Bought from Bologna in the summer, he began the season as a deluxe-model substitute but forced his way into a permanent role with a series of influential late appearances, such as his performances in Austria, in the 2-0 win over Sturm Graz in the Champions' League, in the 3-1 home win over Real Madrid in the same competition, and most dramatically against Roma at the San Siro before Christmas, when he came on after 10 minutes of the second half with his side behind to the only goal



RICHARD WILLIAMS IN MILAN

and orchestrated a 4-1 triumph, scoring two himself.

There was an immediate outcry to let him start the matches. The Gazzetta dello Sport assembled a panel of experts, including former Inter stars Alessandro Altobelli and Robert Boninsegna, who were unan-imous in their belief that Baggio was too good to be used as a part-time genius. This presented Inter's new coach, Mircea Lucescu, with a dilemma which neatly resolved itself when Ronaldo's injuries allowed the team to take the field with a three-man front line - a tridente comprising Baggio, Ivan Zamorano and Youri Djorkaeff. Not, it must be added, that the results in domestic competition have improved in consequence, particularly away from home, where poor team performances have cost them their chance of improving on their third and second positions in the last two seasons. Against Lazio in Rome 10 days ago. in the match that more or less decided whether Inter would be able to mount a challenge for the title, not even a final 15 minutes of furious effort and invention from Baggio could prevent a 1-0 home win for the lead-

Baggio celebrated his 32nd birthday a couple of weeks ago, and there are noticeable physical differences between today's player and the Divine Ponytail of 10 years ago. The ponytail is gone, for a start, and the face has lost its innocence. The hips are wider, too, although still narrow enough to slide through the gap between Alessandro Birindelli and Antonio Conte. But the touch is still there, and the appreciation of movement around him. Even in a ropey game, a film of his performance on Saturday night, and Zidane's, could be used as a master class to show children how to shape the body in order to direct a pass at a difficult angle.

Yet it has been a curious career, in which the disappointments have loomed as large as the triumphs. The only Italian player to score goals in three World Cup finals, he will nevertheless be remembered for the one he missed - the decisive penalty in the shoot-out against Brazil in 1994. when he had dragged Arrigo Sacchi's nondescript team to the final by his own unstinting efforts, only to fall, drained by mental and physical exhaustion, at the final obstacle.

Long before that, there had been a sense that Roberto Baggio was a

man apart. He began his career with Vicenza, then in the third division, in 1982, but a move to Florence three vears later, at the age of 18, was interrupted when he injured a knee in his final appearance before the

transfer. A long convalescence de-

layed his Serie A debut for almost

two years, but by the time he made

his international debut in 1988 he

was already the idol of Fiorentina,

for whom he scored 55 goals in 130

games. There were tears from Bag-

gio and riots from the Florentine fans

rious decline. Worse still, after Fabio four of their five matches, and it was Capello's departure he was joined as a late substitute that he came there by Sacchi, a coach for whom he privately had no respect.

His experience with Milan cost him his place in the national squad for Euro 96, but he had already regained it by the time he made his next move, to Bologna for £1.7m, in the summer of 1997 - again spurning Inter's approach. His time in Bologna was not without its turbulent moments, particularly when the coach led him to believe that he

A short ball inside seemed a good idea. Instead, with a

was announced in 1990. Gianni Agnelli's Fiat fortune had brought football's most gifted individual to Turin, for a relationship that lasted five years, until another little prince, Alessandro Del Piero, came along to take the No 10 shirt. A transfer to Milan in 1995, again

for £8m, represented the worst move of Baggio's career. He turned down an approach from Inter to join what turned out to be a team in se-

against Juventus and then dropped him to substitute on the morning of the match, but it was sufficient rehabilitation to persuade Cesare Maldini to take him to France last

enough to drop Del Piero, the nation's current pin-up boy, whose poor form diminished the whole team. Baggio made appearances in

close to changing football history when his superb cross-shot in extra time almost prevented the quarterfinal against France from going to penalties. He was still, unquestionably, the class act on the field, but for the third time in succession he found himself eliminated from the World Cup by the most unkind of methods. Afterwards, he couldn't

vet another club, having finally succumbed to Massimo Moratti's entreaties and made what will probably be – although don't bet on it – his final big move. Manchester United should bear in mind that despite winning Serie A medals with Juventus and Milan, and the Uefa Cup with Juventus, his record lacks a major international trophy. He is hoping to play for Dino Zoff in Euro 2000, but this season's European Cup surely represents his last realistic chance at club level, and even in Inter's confused season there is enough evidence to attest to his continuing ability to influence the tide

He returned from France to join

The Buddhist who spends his holidays hunting game in Argentina must have needed all his inner re-

terwards, the coach pointed out that, in the absence of Giuseppe Bergomi, the club captain, the armband was worn by the goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca, "But Robi," he said, "is the captain in the outfield, so it's his job to talk to the referee." So the desire is still there. He is not wearing the black and blue stripes just in order to secure his pension. If tomorrow's first leg of

sources to retain a decent perspec-

tive throughout such a career. But,

interestingly, there wasn't much of the

old Zen tranquillity in the ex-pony-

tail's performance on Saturday night.

He was forever chasing around after

a whistle-happy referee, arguing the toss about fouls and offside decisions

given against the black-and-blues.

When Lucescu was asked about it af-

the European Cup quarter-final is destined, as the defender Fabio Galante predicted this week, to turn into "a battle in which temperament, conviction and a spirit of sacrifice will be more important than tactics or technical quality", then Roberto Baggio's character is unlikely to be found wanting. And the talent, as we saw in that indelible moment at San Siro on Saturday, is still his to command. Perhaps Old Trafford, too, will get only slight doubt is Phil Neville, who something to remember him by.

Keane is set on shutting out Inter

BY GUY HODGSON

THE FRUSTRATING thing about Manchester United's dismissal from the European Cup last season was that they emerged from the first leg of their quarter-final with the assumption the job was half done. An away goal at Old Trafford pricked that balloon and they are anxious not to make the same mistake tomorrow.

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A healthy victory over Internazionale is the preferred option but United will be careful not to let the Italians leave Manchester with a goal that might count double at San Siro in two weeks' time.

"A win is vital," Roy Keane, the United captain, said, "but we don't want to concede any goals. Italian teams are very good at coming to places and nicking that precious away goal. Then they go home and concentrate on finishing you off

"It's important we blank them out because we are capable of scoring against the best in the world. We've proved that in Europe this season."

Keane was an injured and uncomfortable spectator at the corresponding stage of the European Cup last season when United secured a 0-0 draw in Monaco but were felled by David Trézéguet's seventh-minute goal. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer managed an equaliser but United were unable to put their noses in front.

The feeling within the United camp is that they are stronger now and better equipped to cope in Europe. "We're not afraid of any team. anywhere." Keane added. "We know all the Inter players because most of them were in the World Cup. Like anybody they have strengths and

Keane played only 45 minutes against Southampton on Saturday. scoring United's opening goal in a 2-1 win and his presence will be highly valued by his manager, Alex man's injury last season was the prime reason why United won noth-

"We have to improve on our performance against Southampton," Keane said. "We said after that match that if we play like that on Wednesday we'll be on our way out of the Champions' League."

Like Keane, Rvan Giggs was also injured against Monaco and like his captain the Welsh winger was unequivocally upbeat yesterday, pointing to the £27.5m paid out in the summer for Jesper Blomqvist, Jaap Stam and Dwight Yorke as a reason

The boss spent a lot of money but he has bought quality," Giggs said. "It's added to the strength of the whole squad, which we need when we are going for something like the European Cup. We're as well equipped as we can be to win it now. Last year when we had injuries we struggled, but not this

"There's a hunger at Manchester United and the European Cup is the competition that drives us on. It's a long time since the club won it last, so there is pressure. Just like when we hadn't won the League for so many years. But we won the League and we know that if we can beat Inter we've got a great chance in Europe this season.

United's chance tomorrow will be enhanced by a full squad to choose from. Stam, who missed the Southampton game, has recovered from a hamstring strain and the

Proven character: Roberto Baggio will not be found wanting in battle of 'temperament, conviction and a spirit of sacrifice'

sway of his hips and a double-shuffle he had left both men sitting on their pants. The crowd gasped with delight

when his £8m transfer to Juventus would be starting the big game

And who knows what might have happened had Maldini been brave

> tain puzzle. Historically, Welsh rugby was based on the domination of the first three of these clubs. Newport were originally linked with them as a fourth. But the fortunes of the Monmouthshire club steadily declined. Cardiff and the two West Wales clubs were joined by one other: Bridgend in the 1960s, Pontypool in the 1970s, Neath in the 1980s and Pontypridd in the 1990s.

In other words, Welsh rugby was always based on a small number of clubs forever playing one another,

sometimes four times a season. The Anglo-Welsh fixtures were popular with English fans and Welsh exiles alike. But in the new confinement of the Welsh clubs behind Offa's Dyke, a great mythology has grown up around those matches.

The big Welsh clubs, at any rate, appeared to regard them less as seriseven and Wales only three. peared to regard them less as serious business than as a branch of the light entertainment industry.

When Lianelli played Harlequins at Twickenham in September (for in those days the Quins would play their pre-Christmas matches at HO rather than at The Stoop) several members of the visiting side usually seemed to have been picked up by the bus in Hendy to make up the numbers.

No, the change is that, with professionalism and the Premiership, the standard of English club rugby has become unrecognisable - even though it has been raised more by imported players than by the homegrown variety. It may be significant that, in the two internationals nine days ago, Ireland had nine players

Unusually by the way I found myself paying for my ticket for the England v Scotland match. A friend who lives near Twickenham had entered a raffle organised by the RFU in an attempt to buy off local residents for the inconvenience caused to them by international matches. He won a prize and was supplied with two tickets. He still had to pay for them, however - £32 each - and I duly reimbursed him for one.

A few months previously I had paid half that, to hear Alfred Brendel play Mozart and Schubert for slightly longer than the duration of a rugby match. Listening to Brendel playing the piano was more enjoyable and better value than watching England playing rugby.

Lack of rationality ruining the spectacle of rugby

TEN DAYS ago we had the spectacie of all four nations of the British Isles - or, as some now absurdly call them, the British and Irish Isles playing international rugby in west London within three or four miles of one another.

Some fixture lists had announced beforehand that the Wales v Ireland fixture would be played at Wembley a week ago on Sunday. as was Wales v France last season. I had also thought that an attempt was to be made throughout the Five Nations' Championship to stagger matches, playing one on the Saturday, the other on the

What happened to this fairly sensible proposal I do not know. instead, on Saturday we are to have France v Wales in Paris starting at matches about right. After 80 min-

2pm, and Ireland v England in Dublin starting at 4pm.

Last season France v England in Paris was shown only on Sky television. But the Irish rugby authorities are evidently less susceptible than the French to Rupert Murdoch's wiles, or more likely, Rupert Murdoch's money. Both matches will therefore be shown on BBC.

Though this may sound ungrateful, it is too much of a good thing: like eating an entire packet of chocolate biscuits, or spending a whole day at the Middlesex Sevens. I have always believed that the

normal attention span for most spectacles or entertainments is about an hour and a half. This is why plays are mostly too long, operas much too long and rugby or football utes or so of a rugby Test I want to put my feet up for half an hour and think about what I have seen without being confronted by the prospect of another Test match. In a rational world, the Five

(soon to be Six) Nations would be played on successive Saturdays and end sometime in April. That is why, earlier, I described the proposal for staggered matches as only fairly sensible. But when did the organisation of rugby football ever have anything to do with rationality? Both the Rugby Football Union and the Welsh Rugby Union, in different ways, contrive to make the Football Association look like

Winston Churchill's war cabinet But for the stubbornness of the WRU, there could have been five Welsh clubs playing in the Allied



ALAN Watkins

Dunbar Premiership before long. Not enough, said the WRU. In fact, the English were being unwontedly generous. On current form only four clubs are up to standard: Cardiff, Swansea, Llanelli and

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11-4 11-4 52 11-4 52

52 11-4 52 100-30 11-4

9-1

SUPREME NOVICE HURDLE (2m 110yds)

Eacherry a quarter the colds, places 1, 2, 3 (Challestonn, Readey 16 March)

ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY NOVICE CHASE (2m)

CHAMPION HURDLE (2m 110yds)

Perfective constants of the court of the cou

NATIONAL HUNT HANDICAP CHASE (3m 1f)

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE NOVICE HURDLE (2m 5f)

QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (2m)

CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (2m 5f)

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE NOVICE CHASE (3m 1f)

Each-way a quarter the colds, places 1, 2, 8 (Challenham, Wachesday 17 March

MILDMAY OF FLETE HANDICAP CHASE (2m 5f)

Each-way a quarter the ocide, places 1, 2, 3, 4 (Challantian, Wednesday 17 Merch)

FESTIVAL BUMPER (2m 110yds)

Sections is quester the orbits, places 1, 2, 3 (Challedger, Westgesday 17 March

TRIUMPH HURDLE (2m 1f)

STAYERS' HURDLE (3m 1f)

Earth was a custor the critic places 1, 2, 3 (Challeghan, Thursday 18 March

CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (3m 2f 110yds)

3-11. JOE MAC Noel Meade AA Syo 15st 81b

IN HORE LA LOI III IL Pice de Hat

1 THE FLY BIRE 90 feel 80

1-2 CAPONAL HELL C Rocks (b) Spo Hal Sh

CUEL SENOR F Coursing Folder Tuel

1211 HES SCHIE N. F Morein (M) Byo Hall Oliv

629-19 LAUTY CHICKET IN Plot 5/o 10st 9th

TO ISDABRAQ A P OSHET (II) 7yo fak

P212 FRENCH HOLLY F Murphy Byo 224

128 GHEY SHOT I Balding Tyo 12st

1-4F BLCWING WOND M Pipe Bio 12st

2-10 STEP ON EYRE H Daly 940

TO ISLAND CHEEF P BRESERVE De

1-W CLEMER REMARK JOH TOKO

THE BARTON T Easterby 6yo 11st 75

121 BEHRAJAN H Dalv 4xx 124 12b

8-12 BUCKSIDE N Herderson 7yo flist 7b

421 EDREDON BLEU Mes H Knight 7yo 12st

h-1 CALL BOURHAME P Nichols 9yo 12st

9281 CELEATE C Menn Byo 12st

323 GALANT MOSS M Fige 5xg

2071 EASTER ROSS N Henderson &

4P1 XINGS MEASURE J Jafferson 6/4

33/3 MELODY WAD Nitherdenon 7yo

LIMI MICK DUNDEE ECORAS AN TWO RES 46

20 KADOU NONANTAS O Sterwood-byo 14st 48

1P21 LORD OF THE RIVER O Sharwood 7yo 11st 4b

1822 SPENDID D Nicholson 7yo tilgt 4th

III MAJADOU NI Pipa 5yo 10st 8b

13-2P TEDESTROOK K Bailey Byo

324 MORNATE PORTE J Adam Byo

1 ALEXANDER PRIZE W Males (M) Byo

1-1 GOLDEN ALPHA M Floe Sec 21-1 BALWERDEN Miner'S College Street 31 GIVE IT HOLLY A P CRAin (45) 440

12 INGORESH C Rocke (41) 4yo

38 KATAFINO N Henderson Ayo that

TELL NO BET EDGE IN CRESSON SAL 450 TES

1P2. SEMPLY CEFTED D Easterby 4yo 88

TRI DANGERUS PRECEDENT C Egerion Ajo Tust

4th LADY RESECCA Mass Veneta YEEgons 7yo 12xl 5th

194 COMMANCHE COURT TWINK \$60 Byo 11st 10b

titl LE COLDRAY A P (78/en (14) 5yo fist 10b

1-5 MARGLO Mrs M Renday Byo 11st 5b

1-P1 RICHIDA PENAL WHILE OF 7/0 Test

THE TEETON MELL Miss V Williams TOYO TEST

THE ALEXANDER BANGUET WHATE (II) BIO Rig 76

1-12 CARDINAL HILL N Mexic 6th Sep 14st 7to

HAPPY CHARGE Him Venda Williams See This

-III ACHMADDA GOLD TIME SA 750 TE SB

22 RASSIPUBBIALIES PALITES PORTS

Gyllene misses Cheltenham

FROM HERE on in punters do By RICHARD EDMONDSON not really want to pick up the papers. They would close down the National Grid to cut off televisions and radios as well, because from this point there can be only bad news about horses and fancies for the Cheltenham Festival

there is the dodging, trainers trying to sidestep the bacteria that can visit their stables, the stones that can be found by a galloping hoof. The ante-post vouchers are all clenched between crossed fingers.

A first notable absentee emerged yesterday when Lord Gyllene, the winner of the postponed 1997 Grand National. was reported to have met with a setback and will not now be among the players who congregate to entertain us at the foot of Cleeve Hill.

Lord Gyllene would probably not have won at the Festival, but his presence would certainly have enhanced the occasion. Few horses have ever made the Aintree fences look so insignificant, but the 11-year-old will now recoperate rather than participate as he attempts to win back his crown

"During routine work over the weekend Lord Gyllene pulled a muscle behind the saddle and so will only be walking for the next 10 days," Steve Brookshaw, the gelding's trainer, said yesterday. "Therefore he will not be going to Cheltenham. We noticed it after be had worked and the vet said we shouldn't have anyone on his back for the next 10 days. We will look for another race before the Grand National, possibly over hurdles."

The injury to Earthmover is seriously damaged pride fol-Young Kenny in the Greenalls ration and there is always next

2.20 Eskieybrook

2.50 Liver Bird (nb)

3.20 Peveril Pendragon

■ FAVOURITES: \$12-287 (35.5%).

been eent 284 miles. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

GOING: Soft (Heavy patch by the winning post) Right-hand, undulating course, Run-in of 250vds.

Grand National Trial at Havdock on Saturday. The eightyear-old comfortably beat off the challenge of one of his cofavourites, Island Chief, but that was the only one of the 11 finishers behind him. That was The trials, the main work, not good enough from last seahave been completed and now son's Foxhunters' Chase winner who went into the contest as a wild card for the Gold Cup itself. The Blue Riband is beginning to look a forlorn objective.

Paul Nicholls may have perversely been anticipating some sort of physical affliction to explain Earthmover's effort in Lancashire, but the horse has been in hearty form since the weekend. While a stable lass has been liberating the gelding from behind a door, Nicholls has

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Eskleybrook (Leicester 2.20) NB: Northern Saddler

(Leicester 4.50) been affecting a similar action

with the drawing board "He's fine after Saturday." the Ditcheat trainer reported vesterday. "We don't know what we are going to do with him yet. but he would appreciate better ground. I will sort it out with the owner and discuss what to do. at the moment plans are fluid."

The Champion Hurdle, looks likely to go ahead without any input from Deep Water, a convincing winner of the Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle at Liverpool last year. Micky Hammond's runner is more likely to show his mettle in the Scottish Champion Hurdle at Ayr next month. "I just felt that to have gone to Cheltenham the yard would have to be zinging, but we have not had the right prepa-

LEICESTER

HYPERION

Course is 2m SE of city off A6. Lelcaster station (London, St Pancras - Sheffield ine) 2m. ADMISSION: Cub \$13; Tattersalls £10 (OAPs £8). Pionic car perk £25 admits car and four occupants. Free rececards. CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 19-90 (23.8%), D Nicholson 12-54 (22.2%), N Hen-

derson 11-35 (314%), Mrs J Pitman 11-50 (22%), N Twiston-Davies 7-30 (23.5%), M LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 15-60 (26.7%), M A Fitzgerald 13-56 (23.2%), A Maguire 13-67 (19.4%), J Oaborne 7-37 (18.9%), G Bradley 7-39 (17.9%)

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Chief Chipple (2.20) and Copperhurst (3.20) have

2.20 PICKWELL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E)

43PB REFLEX COURSER (14) (Martin Tucker) J Upson 7 tt 13...

F-224 CATHERMES WAY (60) (7 K Carvil) A Turnel 7 11 5 -5-222 SISTER GALE (25) (Ben Van Praegh) Mrs S Smith 7 11 2 22004 RELUCKINO (645) (M G Livell) M Wildreson 9 10 13

043444 OFIENTAL STYLE (14) Style Partners) G Balding 5 to 12

04214 CHESTIAL STYLE: [14] (Style Farmers) (5 Battley 5 10 2: 2020) Pright Title [14] (Style Farmers) (5 Battley 5 10 2: 2020) Pright Title FROCK (12) (V Gethir) N Tweston-Dates 6 10 7: 210P-8 THE HATCHER (902) (1005) (C Mackerstein D Gandado 11 10 3: 210P-8 THE HATCHER (902) (N Battley 10 0: 0) 0: 0. 440PEF WELSURN SOV (90) (K Battley 10 0: 0)

3POUSP CHIEF CHIPPE (8) (The 49 Partnership) W Kemp 6 to 0 B Powell B

Minimum vanglat: 10st. True handicap weights: Credo Boy 9st 12b, Welburn Boy 8st 11b, Chief Chippie

SECTING: 5-2 Catherine's Way, 4-1 Reflex Courier, 5-1 Fighting Times, 6-1 Eskleybrock, Sister Gale, 10-1 Credo Boy, 12-1 Oriental Style, 14-1 The Hatcher, 16-1 Weltum Boy, 20-1 others 1998 Master Mano 10 10 12 A Thomson 14-1 (F Ainer) 15 ran

FORM GUIDE

Reflex Country: Has shown promise in novos chases despite jumping problems. Looked to be struggling in 4th place when brought down 3 out at Sedgefield (2m5f, good) last

Catherine's Way: Won smiler event at Huntingdon (2m, good to soft) in December.

Rucidino: Novice-handicap hunder. First outing since May, 1997 and first run since iving John O'Shea. Not highly tried on chasing debut, but likely to need the run leated Style: Urreliable and linds little under pressure. Lost touch after the 8th when

4th to Boulevard Bay here (2m1), good to solt) on 3rd run over fences last month

en 45"/ lengths when 42" to Legal Right at Ludiow (2"; m, good to soff) in Janu

er: First outing since May when 6th (be

Fighting Times: Made all to win at Newton Abbot (2m, heavy) last month. Soon talled oil at Hereford (2m, good) next time and best watched until showing more sparife Estdeybrook: Faled to stay 3m when pulled up last time on first run for new yard. Best-

Newton Abbot (2m5), soft in Nevember Long layoff likely to find him out on this ground Credo Boy: Suited by this ground, but one-paced. Probably better with a test of sta-mina and had every chance 3 out when an 8 length 2nd to Total Joy at Plumpton (3m1).

Rugh at Hereford (3m1), good in December and going is against him Chilef Chippile: Poor nonce hurder/chaser. Only form over lences this season when 3rd of 4 finishers (beaten distance) to The Snow Burn at Hestiam (3m1), heavy) in No-

VERDICT: Most of these locked doorned to still be madens at the end of the see.

son and the disappointing Reflex Counter will go close if jumping better. Cetherine's Way ran no sort of race here last time and a chance is taken with ESIGLEYBROOK.

Puted up on his first outing for Nigel Twiston-Davies over three inities at Taunton last month, this shorter trip will be more in his favour and he is on a low mark on his first

am Boy: Winning promier on good to firm. Promising chasing disbut when 4th to

good) last month. Unlikely to stay the trip on this much softer ground

is way, that a mail better a managed to be the good to soft in good to soft in good to soft in got time and step up in the may help to Moderate notices of caser, flattered by her 2nd to Turnpole at Cottenct; Gimit.

3.50 Samuel Wilderspin

4.50 NORTHERN SADDLER (nap)

. A Thom

.....D Leeby

4.20 Strong Vision



year," the trainer said. "I think seen on Merseyside, though Scottish Champion Hurdle and a spin on the Flat before he he won't necessarily have a goes to Aintree. The grey had race before. He won first time out last season and is not a difficult horse to get ready."

1998: Debt Of Honour 10 11 0 R Johnson 20-1 (R Lee) 9 ran

originally been steered towards easy pickings at Kelso on Friday, but the agenda has Lord Lamb, Mary Reveley's changed after his unexpected talented hurdler, will next be defeat on heavy ground at New-

2.50 DRAGON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) 25,000 added 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value 23,860

FORM GUIDE

Liver Bird: Winning hurder/chaser in Ireland. Acts on soft ground (won twice on heavy) and showed he stays this trip when successful in 3m handicap chase at Cork in April

оны энцитем не сверх на в неу натиг зволевами и эти патискар ствер вк Coft 81 Apr. Jazzman: Winning hurdler, bast effort over fancas when Zan do Ardnina at Towceste (24-m, good) in October, 3rd to Zaggy Lane at Taunton (3m3f, acti) last time and may

need tester ground

Etitight: First outing over lances here, but winning chaser over 21/4m (heavy) in France.

Promising 3rd to Door Yo Door over hurdles at Sandown (21-4m, good to soft) last time.

Rockly Partic Stays well, but one-paced and has not won for over 4 years. Probably listited by his 2nd to Dancetillyoudrop at Wincarnon (3mm1, good to soft) last time and

respond and Demonst: Winner over lences in France. Looked to need farther when 3rd to Regaresque here (21/6m, good to soft) less month and runs off the same mark Madam Mucle Going well when talling on her chaning debut at Fontwell (31/m, good to soft) in December. Placed twice over fences since and looks on a fair handcap mark

ta Williams' record of improving horses he should be up to conceding weight away here. Ettigri has his first run over fences for Terry Casey and though he shaped weil over hundles at Sandown last month the stable have not had a winner for over seven

3.20 SYSTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,214

-7 declared - Hardway 10st True handicap weights: Brownseth King Set 13th, Stage Player Set 12th, BETTING: 8-7 Red Been, 100-30 Peveril Pendragon, 9-2 Copperhurst, 5-1 Indian Roin, Playlack Lad, 8-1 Streamseth King, 33-1 Stage Player 1998. Who Am I 8 10 10 A Thornton 11-2 (Fl Almer) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE

Red Beant: One time useful 2m chase. Returns from an 11-month layoff and change of stable. Acts on any going and 10to lower than when 2nd to Philip's Woody at Sandown (21-km, good to firm) last season, last season and on an 11to lower mark than when winning at Chepstow (31-km, heavy) in April. Thip looks on the short other care.

maik than when winning at Chepstow (31/m, heavy) in April. HIP DONE ON THE MANN side now led in New Stated by plenty of give in the ground and has won twice at Plumpton (2mSt, heavy) this season. Still 6th higher than latest success in January and found 3m too far last time.

Copperturate Promising 2md to Rough Test on reappearance at Ketso (2mtl, soft) in October. Deappointing since and has been dropped 9th, but needs farther Pewell Pendragon: Held up on chasing debut when never nearer 6th of 16 to Lough Lein Spirit at Hereford (2m3t, good) lest month Has been dropped 4th and good chance on furdes form.

Browmath King: Ex-frish handicap chaser, won once over fences at Galwey (2f/m, good). Westerned 6 out when 5th to Gate Force on first run for new yard at Musealbugh (3m. good to firm) lest month.

Stage Player: Veteran winning furder/chaser. Needs fast ground and on the downgrade. Returns other at 7 month prest and one to rule out as stable on long loting run VERDICT: Red Bean could end a lean spell for Simon Earle here, but PEVERIL.

VERIDICT: Red Beam could end a lean spet for Simon Earle here, but PEVERIL PENDRAGON is just prefered as he should have the adventage in titness. Although 10by Balding has not had a warner for rearly three months this five-year-old may have more scope than his older musts.

3.50 RUTLAND WATER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 26,000

castle recently. "He's just been he will take his chance in the he will take the oblique route of turned away, but he's nearly ready to start cantering again, Reveley said. "He'll have his next run on the Flat at Doncaster and then he'll go back over hurdles at Liverpool."

nections of Crazy Horse to forsake the Festival in favour of the Scottish course, "He's entered at Cheltenham [in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle] but it's a big race on Friday (the Hennes Cognac Series Final and the plan is to go there." Len Lungo,

have also persuaded the con-

Samuel Wilderspin: Promising novice chaser, but broke a blood vessel when winning at Warwick (2/j.m. soft) in January. 2nd to Flaxey Wood at Chaltenham (2m5t, soft) next time and will be hard to beat next erre and will be hard to best dreyton: Wirning this pointer (3m, yielding) in May and placed twice over hurdles for new yard. Stable have not had a winner for seven weeks and will first easier races Lothian Commander: Maliden hurdler and poor novice cheser. Kept on at one pace from 2 out when 3rd to Tumpole at Sedgefield (3m3(, good) last time and tough task

here Sweep Clean: Promising first effort for new yard on chasing debut when 3rd to Boule-vard Bay here (2m1f, good to soft) last month. Looks sure to win a novice chase, but 2nd place looks his best hope here Heidiquecondutube: Crasing debut. Hes not run since finishing 14th of 20 (Samuel Wilderspin 6th) in 2m NH Flat race at Ayr (good) in April 1997

VERDICT: It is hard to oppose SANUEL WILDERSPIN, even though he would have only been third to Faxely Wood it Unshisable Bosen had not fallen two out at Chet-terthem in January and has twice broken blood vessels this season. He beat Cheerful Aspect ten langifis at Warwick in January and the numer-up went on to win easily at

4.20 GREAT GLEN NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,924

FORM GUIDE

off when this by Lets Be Frank on his creasing debut here (2/wm, good) in December. May do better in time. No Matter: Chasing debut, Showed nothing in 2 novice hundle runs last season and also made no show in 3 outlings in similar company in 1996-7. Roosenoor: Useful hundle hundle, but becoming disappointing. Binkered for the list time over fences when 4th to Holdimctose at Fontwell (2mSt, good) last week and will not find many assets opportunities than this Strong Vision: Promising run on only outing last season when 2nd to Spanding Cone at Towcester (2*/km, soft). Tailed off in 3nd when fell next time, but should not be far

VERDICT: Romancer is again equipped with the billners he wore over hundles, but has never yearly looked the taking to fences, STRONG VISION was a fence behind when he took a heavy fall at the last at Fontwell three weeks ago, but could be worth another chance. A point-to-point winner in instance, his stable is showing signs of a revivel effect apell and his second to Sparking Cone at Towcester last season is better than anything this field have achieved.

4.50 OAKHAM HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added

FORM GUIDE

Centeur Express: Tough front-rumer, made most when wining over C&D (soft) in January. Raised Sto, but only 7b verys off for 19th langths with Astrat trivesion (sth) Mustic Please: Won twice over fences last season for Venetia Williams. Disappointing first run for new yeard when pulled up before 2 out at Windsor (2m, good to soft) in November and has not run since.

Colonel Blazes: Has won 5 times over hundes and fences on going no worse rism good to soft. Self 4b above his highest winning mark and returns eiter a layoff Boulevard Bay: Easy winner of a maden chase over C&D (good to soft) last month. First outling in hardicap, often males nursing, but will be taken on the Centeur Express Northwan Saddier: Natural Interest when 1st gives a vigit of between of himself. Game effort off a 2b higher mark when yeard to Cool Spot at hereford (2m, good) last month Astral Intereston: Vestioned after 3 out when 19th fength 4th to Centeur Express over C&D (soft) in January. Seeten 4 out when 6th to Cool Spot at Hereford (Northern Saddier 2nd) (2m, good) next time

VERDICT: Centeur Express is on a 5b higher mark than when winning over one was

VERDICT: Centaur Express is on a 55 higher mark than when winning over course and distance in January and may not be able to give 24th to NORTHERN SADDLER.

The charms of the borders

FORM GUIDE

30-6 FERRYHILL (89) (Ahs R A Humphree) Mas H Knight 8 11 3 J. B FOISD NO MATTER (478) (Nichteles Cooper) R Rowe 8 11 3 J. B 32-564 ROMANCER (8) (M Archer & Mes J Broadhurst) N Twester-Davies 8 11 3 C. Lieu F12-F5 STRONG VISION (22) (F W Buchen) K Balley 8 11 3 J. N WIII F12-F5 VELAPA PRINCE (8) (D) (Fred Krby) F Krby 8 11 3 J. G. Su - 5 declared -

myfill: Looks the type to do well over fences, but made misteles and soon talled f when 5th to Lets Be Frank on his chasing debut here (21/m, good) in December

avery Velape Prince: Ex-Irish novice chaser and sold for only 2,800gns in August. Tailed off all 3 outings for new yard over fences at distances up to 3m1f

2m 1f Penalty Value £3,548

Minimum weight: 10p: True hendicop weight: Astel Innesion Set 11th. BETTINKS: 9-4 Centair Express, 11-4 Northern Seddler, 4-1 Boulevan Astral Intratent, 16-1 Missic Pleate. 1998: Play Games 10 10 0 L Harrey 12-1 (Fl Lee) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

(2004) Granders & 10 12 () Leady 9-1 (Mrs. J. Pilman) & ran

added 2m 7f 110vds Penalty Value £4.598

NEWCASTLE Going Soft heavy in places

2.00. (2m maden hurdle) 1. PATRAS 2. Rahvue 3. Csius

>THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS 971 981 LEICESTER 972

ALL COURSES RESULTS

0891 261 970

973 983

Intercity Partmersho): Tota: C720; C240, C180, C260 DF: C1600 CSF: C2206, NR: Chevalier Errant, Datton Lady.

3.00 (2m seling hardicap hurdio)
1. WESTERN GENERAL A Maguire 15-2
2. Be Brave O MCPhell 5-1
3. Durano 1. Wyer 9-2 law
4. Court Joker Cooper 6-1

6 ran, 5, 4, 11. (Warner brown gelding by Phardante out of Share The Dream, trained by F Murphy at Middeham for Mrs Ton S Tipper), Toler S190, S160, S140, DF: S390, CSF: S360, Treast: \$4861, NR: Act The Wag, Galle Force.

RESULTS by Silly Prices out of The White Libn, trained by Mrs M Reveley at Salitburn for D S Helf). Tota: £3.80; £140, £210, £110, ØF: £9.60. forward to Catterick today. d; £9600. Quadpot: £2830. Place 6: £17439, Place 5: £8811.

> Going: Soft (History in places 2.20: 1, WISE GUNNER (A P MCCOY) 11-2; 2.2011. West: Statement of Fast-ory 111-2. 2. Anns Cirl 19-8 for: 3. Maylin Maglio 11-2. 11 ran. 5, 14 (M Ppc, Wellington), Tolia: 08.70; 0150, 0160, 0160, DF: 08.70, CSF: 01439, AR: ESUL LIN LINE TO THE STATE OF T

3-1 13 ram. 5. Tt. (Mass Venetis Williams, Here-lond). Total: £150; £120; £150; £130; £130. DF: £450. CSF: £552. NPt. Aldna. 3.20: 1. EMERALD STATEMENT (8 Fembri) 2-1; 2. Woodlands Been 5-1; 3. Edge Ahead 40-1 4 ran, 4-6 fav Strong Tel (pulled up) 5, dist. (D Grissall, Pobertsbridge). Total: 12:40. DF: 23:40. CSF: \$1009. 3.50; 1, IT'S WALLACE (M Batchelor) 6-1: 2. Nesaut Doro 13-2; 3. Doctor Bra 11-4 tax, 7 rats, 4 8, Challer Poulton, Lewest,

Total: \$5.80; £3.50, £3.60. DF; £46.80. CSF; £35.32 4.25: 1, CALLEVA STAR (At J D Moore) 4-1; Southern Belle (icht), 25-1 Peggya Deligit.
33-1 Dame Hettle (Sth), 50-1 Horrey Socie.
Strygen Star. Worthy Dencer, 200-1
Lizarne.
13 ran. 8, nd, 14, 30, 7; (Witner bey mans)
15 ran. 8, nd, 14, 30, 7; (Witner bey mans)
16 ran. 8, nd, 14, 30, 7; (Witner bey mans)
17 ran. 8, nd, 14, 30, 7; (Witner bey mans)
18 ran. 8, nd, 14, 30, 7; (Witner bey mans)

4.55: 1, MY TERN (A P McCoy) 7-2: 2, Royal Ruler 5-1: 3, Derrybelle 9-2, 7 rss., 3-1 fav Golden Lify (pulled up). 12, 4. (L. Wells, Bängshurst). Tota: \$410; \$2.50, \$180. OF: Baingshurst). Tota: 68.50, CSF: \$18.53. pot: £246.30. Guadpot: £54.40. Place 6: £136.22. Place 5: £8915.

SOUTHWELL Going: Standard
1.40: 1. DENBRAE (Mrs L. Pearce) 5-1; 2. Almadriar 12-1; 3. Gadge 6-1.11 ram, 100-30 fave find from 10-14. LJ Pearce), Total: ESS; 5250, 5440, 5200. DF: 54740 CSF: 950-51, Tricast: 235173.

2.10: 1. LIVE PROJECT (Mass Nicola Crag-gs) 5-1; 2. Arrasonne Venture 13-2; 3. Ko-10 6-1, 10 ran. 7-4 tay Kasa Alha 2.40: 1. INISH CREAM (T G McLaughir) 1-18 fav; 2. Sounds Lucky 10-1, 2 ran. 4 (P Evans). Tote: £110.

3.10: 1. WINDSHIFT (P. Rizsimone) 4-1; 2. Magical Shot ti-2: 3. Rizeres 9-2 8 ren. 7-2 fav Anonym (6th). 1½, 1½, (D. Shaw). Totte: 2330; £140, £170. DF: £2130. CSF: £2419. Tricast: £9415. 3.40: 1. NITE OWLER (J Edmunds) 9-2; 2. Kater 10-1; 3. Rock laland Line 5-1 11 ren. 7-2 te/ Little Barr. 11/a, nk. (J Batting). Total EASO; £150, \$440, £120, OF: £38.50, CSF: 4.10; 1, LINEA-G (A Outhans) 5-1; 2, Chall-

2. Ice Age 11-1; 3. Chaluz 7-2 h fav. 11 ran. 7-2 h fav Ramsey Hope. Hd. 2%, (D Arbustynd. Totac 5560; 5160, 5360, 5160, DF: tev Ramisey Hope, Hd, 21/s. (D Ar-of) Total 2560; £150, £380, £180, DF: 229.00. CSF: \$45.73. Tricest: £160.34. 5.15: 1. GREEN BOPPER (C Lowther) evens toy; 2. Swift 19-2; 3. Dick Turpin 4-1. Placepot: 28350. Quadpot: £13,70. Place 6: £63,14. Place 5: £2185.

FIRST SHOW LINGFIELD 3.40 41 72 72 51 4 Ponder River 72 41 54 92 54 Bank Ou Han 92 11-2 9-2 11-2 5-1 Over To You 7-1 7-1 5-1 6-7 6-1 Hamistill Henry 8-1 8-7 9-7 8-1 10-1 81 101 81 81 74 Kings Anne 14-1 14-1 11-1 14-1 11-1 Her Hager 161 164 2-1 2-1 2-1 Monte Lady 14-1 14-1 12-1 12-1 14-1 Stak As A Parmat 94-1 16-1 16-1 14-1 16-1 204 161 161 181 20-7 CONTROL ETTER 33-1 25-1 23-1 23-1 23-1 ණි ජා 334 **ජා** ජා See Denzig 40-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 25-1

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8-1 8-1 8-1 8-1 2-2 DOUBLE THRELER P Nations 9/0 254 8-1 7-1 7-1 8-1 8-1 222 ESCARTEFICATE Discholors No 2st 81 81 7-1 9-1 9-1 Each-way a quarter the ocks, places 1, 2, 3 (Challes . . COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (2m 1f) 221 DECOUPAGE C Egenton 7yo 380- TOAST THE SPREECE M Fipe 7yo 635 CITY HALL ME Y WORD SHO 10-1 ti 15MENO DEparta Byr 11-1 Each very a country the cody, places 1, 2, 3, 4 (Chalterhole, Thursday 16 Marchy

GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (4m 41) CHLS 212-11 DOUBLE THRULER P Notate 910 Tox 80 84 74 84 94 94 21-31 THETOM MILL May V Williams Dijo Cat 10-1 10-1 8-1 10-1 9-1 3849 BUDIFE MPpe 7ye flat 10b 141 HJ 161 121 HJ 52-11 F SUBY BAY'S Sharraged TOyo Tisk Ofb 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 H-1FS GENERAL WOLFE Mas Y Williams (Ope tist 1) 341 141 151 204 151 PF3 ACCEMENTON BOY FAMILY IN THE TEL 81 조차 조차 3차 2**차**1 SIGN HAMANHAM M Pipe TOJO 10st 320 254 254 254 254 1AP LORD GYLLENE'S Brookstraw Thyo Tol. 12b 201 254 201 251 69 8222 FIDOLING THE FACTS N Henderson Byo 10st 3b 18-1 dar del 20-1 33-1 SP2 GO BALLISTIC D Michelson Toyo Total Table ... 201 23-1 33-1 25-1 25-1 Only 40 can are. Minimum: 10st Each-way a quarter the ooks, places, 1, 2, 3, 4 (Parent Steamby, 10 April)

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Illness

stifles

tourists

New Zealand Under-19 205-4

NZ Under-19 win by six wkts

THE ENGLAND Under-19 side. heavily weakened by a bout of

food poisoning, fell to a six-wick-

et defeat in the third one-day in-

ternational against New Zealand

Under-19s in Hamilton yesterday

The defeat brings to an end

a disappointing tour in which the

Test series was drawn after

England were 1-0 up and the

one-day series lost after the

tourists were again in the lead.

were affected by sickness, with

New Zealand missing their

opener Tim McIntosh, and hav-

ing three other players take part

England lost three players -

in the match despite illness.

batsman Ian Bell, all-rounder

Giles Haywood and pace

bowler Matt Whiley. In addition,

the seamer Matt Rulbeck was

unable to take the field at all

during the New Zealand in-

nings after making 33 not out.

tainty about the origin of the ill-

ness, which first surfaced in the

England camp late on Sunday

afternoon, the New Zealand

coach, Dayle Hadlee, believed

that it came from food served

to players and officials at the

Westpac Trust ground on Sat-

urday during the second one-

day international. He made a

formal complaint to the North-

ern Districts Cricket Associa-

tion and has asked for the local

health authority to investigate

Although there was no cer-

Both teams and local officials

and lost the series 2-1.

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England Under-19 202

Ten centres will dip into Lottery cash

Academy of Sport took its final shape yesterday - as the British Academies of Sport. Although Sheffield is nominal HQ of the 10 regional centres announced by the Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, Chris Smith, the network of facilities proposed will operate on an egalitarian basis, accessing £160m of Lottery-based funding set aside for the project. The State Secretary denied

the charge that, 14 months after deciding to site the UK Sports Institute in Sheffield the Government and national sporting bodies had come up with a body with no head. Sheffield, he said, would have a central function in the network, providing "quality con-trol" for the whole operation and specialising in sports science, medicine, research and administration. It will also have a wide range

of top-class sporting facilities, but in this respect it will be no different to the other named regional sites: Gateshead, Manchester, Holme Pierrepont near Nottingham, Loughborough University, Bedford, Bisham Abbey, Crystal Palace, Bath University and Southampton University. The official guiding principle

in all this is "taking service to he athletes, not the other way round". In short, the exact opposite of John Major's original vision of a brand new, superBY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

duper centre on the lines of the Australian Sports Institute in

Smith rejected the idea that the new structure had been taken in another direction by the Labour Government for political reasons. This is sport driven, not politics driven," he said. "We have spent a lot of time talking to the governing bodies of sport in this country and asking them exactly what they want. But I think John Major did a very great service by introducing the idea in the first place and ensuring that Lottery funding was flowing into the sport to enable this to happen. I believe this new network will be a real benefit to our athletes so they can go out

and beat the world." The World Class Performance programme, the elite end of national Lottery funding for British competitors, is geared to getting Britain into the top 10 of the medals table at the 2004 Athens Olympics, which is likely to require at least seven gold medals. The relative failure of Britain's performance at the 1996 Olympics - where only Steven Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent won gold and the country finished 36th in the medals table - added impetus to Major's project, and

substantial Lottery funding for individual athletes, appears to be creating the ideal conditions for success. Among those endorsing the

new initiatives yesterday were the European 100 metres champion Darren Campbell and David Tanner, performance director for British rowing, "We wouldn't have been able to come on a trip like this before Lottery funding," Tanner said. "It has made an absolutely fantastic difference. And the new structure will make it all sustainable. We still need more facilities, but the will is there, and at last we have the money to do it." Smith confirmed that the

Government was committed to funding the new network of centres for at least 8 to 10 years, which means that the selected sites, many of which have been chosen because they already have substantial facilities already, will be able to push on with their plans to upgrade and improve what they have. The centre at Bath Univer-

sity will now submit plans for another £10m of Lottery funding for an indoor running track and multi-purpose sports hall, along with new synthetic pitches and tennis courts. Steve Baddeley, chief exec-

utive of the Badminton Association of England, spoke for many organisations with his reaction to the announcement. "There's a sense of relief," he said. "This is long overdue."



Cullinan reaches milestone

DARYLL CULLINAN became South Africa's highest individual Test scorer with an unbeaten 275 out of South Africa's total of 621 for 5 declared on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand at Eden Park yesterday. Worthy though his achieve-

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ment was, the home side's batsmen confirmed the lifelessness of the pitch by reaching 205 for 2 by the close of play.

Cullinan passed the 274 scored by Graeme Pollock against Australia at Kingsmead in 1969-70 with a scurried second run off Craig McMillan's medium pace, at which point the captain. Hansie Cronje, declared.

South Africa 621-5 dec New Zealand 205-2

The stylish right-hander, 32 next week, also batted longer than any other South African, staying in for 10 hours 59 minutes, nine minutes longer than Gary Kirsten required to score his 210 against England at Old Trafford last year.

Cullinan's innings spanned 490 deliveries and contained 27 fours and two sixes. His two records supplement two other national records he holds. He became the youngest first-class century-maker in South Africa

and then made their highest first-class score, 337, in 1995. Just two wickets fell all day, Roger Twose being caught be-

hind by Mark Boucher off the bowling of Allan Donald after contributing 31 to an opening stand of 80 and Nathan Astle falling in identical style after scoring a breezy 41, which included lifting spinner Paul Adams for two sixes in an over. The pitch, which was cov-

ered with wood glue before the match got under way to stop it breaking up, seems unlikely to Allort.
Bearling: Donald 17-10-33-2; Pollock
16-5-40-0 (2nb): Xlusener 12-5-23-0; Adams
17-5-61-0; Kalifs 10-3-24-0 (2nb): Cullinan deteriorate. If anything it is becoming easier for the batsmen and Horne capitalised to

at the age of 16 years 304 days finish unbeaten, and untroubled, on 92 from 219 balls.

NEW ZEALAND - First Innings Twose c Boucher b Donald

To bet: CZ Harris, tA C Parore, M D Bell, "D J Nash, D L Vettori, S B Douil, G I

THIRD UNDER-19 ONE DAY INTERNA-TIONAL (Hamilton): England Under-19 202 (I N Ranagan 52, M A Gough 55): New Zealand Under-19 205 for 4 J Englefield 81 no). New Zealand win by six wickets.

the catering facilities.

this new set-up, coupled with

CATTERICK

2.00 Alimerjam 2.30 Canadian Fantasy 3.00 Jessotle 3.30 Tifasi 4.00 I'm The Man 4.30 Minster Glory 5.00 Ireland's Eye GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places)

ELeft-hand course, undulating and sharp. Not suitable for the long-striding horse. Run-in 240yds.

El Course is NW of town on A8135. Darlington station 14to - bus service to course ADMISSION: Club £12; Tattersalis £8; Course

£250 (under 16e free into all enclosures). CAR PARK: Reserved FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

mond 15-137 (109%), Mrs S Smith 14-111 (126%), T Easterby III (FADING JOCKEVS: P Nivan 27-97 (278%), R Garritty 17-83 (205%), A S Smith 14-102 (19.7%), B Storey 13-160 (81%)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Alimerjam (visored, 200), All Our Blessings (200), Lanacar Lane (3.30), Prince Of Saints (4.30).

2.00 WENSLEY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (F) £3,000 added filles & mares 2m 4-32'3 MY DESPERADO (10) (CD) (BF) L Lloyd-James 6 12 0

..... Mr C R Weaver (7)

ı	3	4.6395	TANGSHAN (CAN) (17) Ales D Harris 5 TO 11 S Durack
ſ	4	650233	BACK TO BAVARIA (5) F J John Soules (irl) 5 10 10. F J Flood
l	5	0.20F-	CAROL AGAIN (F11) N Bycroft 7 106 _ G F Ryan (3)
I	đ	345350	CRUZ SANTA (33) M Chepman & 108 W Worthington
l	7	037	LITTLE KENNY (832) RJ Price 5 105 A Dobbin V
١	8		MISCONDUCT (6) Mrs M Jones 5 TJ 4 (7ex) A Maguire
ł	9	300	THE CIREY BAY (17) Mrs M Paveley 7 103 G Lee
ı	Ð		MADGE MCSPLASH (14) (D) J-Jefferson 7 103 L Wyer
1	η		PRECKLES (S) M Ryan 4 102 P McCabe
ı	E		ALIMERJAM (82) Mrs N Macaulty 5 100 . Mr R Fornisted (5) V
1	ø		SINCING SCALLY (54) W City 8 to 0
۱	15	6003	ALL OUR BLESSINGS (17) Mrs. A Swinburs. 4 10 0 Scopple B

15 PP00 PREMIERE FOULEE (FR) (53) F Jordan 4 100 A \$ Smith

2 DAFAP SUPPLEME TARGET (17) J Charlon 7 H 2 __ . . . B Storey

m ungit" 10st. Twe tendicap weights: Alimenam 9st 12th, Singing 5ca b. All Our Bressings Set 10th, Premiere Foulee Set 4th BETTING: 11-8 Meconduct, 4-1 My Desperado, 5-1 Beck To Bevaria, 5-1 Cruz Sants, Alimerjano, 10-1 Tangahan, 12-1 The Grey Bay, 20-1 others FORM VERDICT

The odds will be skinny, but it is difficult to overlook MIS-CONDUCT, who made short work of similar opposition six days ago. Each-way backers look assured of a solid run from My 2.30 HARROGATE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m

1	3/3121 ES GO (28) (CD) R Bastiman 6 t2 0
2	-06160 BAWARA (14) L Lungo 5 11 7
3	015000 WILLYELICRA (52) (D) F J John Bowles (M) 7 11 7 F J Flood
4	40250 MELDRUM PARK (46) (C) F Marphy 6 11 2
5	O BEHARI (17) J Turner 5 to 0 T Reed
6	PO4-03 CANADIAN FANTASY (60) Mrs V Ward 5 11 0 R Thornton
7	04 GWESPYR (28) Miss K Miligen 6 17 0 F Learly
8	MOVING APROW (F136) Was M Reveloy 6 11 0
9	PAINT IT BLACK (F10) Mrs A Swribank 6 11 0 J Supple
10	OS40 THE LAMBTON WORM (32) M Bycroft 5 TI 0 G F Ryan (3)
Ħ	PO UNITUS (Fit) M Chapman 8 11 0 W Worthington
12	5- WILD HADEER (295) J Upson 5 11 0 B Gratten (3)
13	0-P WRANGEL (FR) (63) J FoxGerald 5 1) 0 A P McCoy
14	ACADEMY (F74) A Turnel 4 10 6
5	D PARLEZ MOI D'AMOUR (13) D Smith 4 TO 1 L Wyer
	- 15 declared -
BÉT	TING: 9-4 Es Go. 3-1 Moving Arrow, 6-1 Willyellers, B-1 Baseses, 10-1

Meldrum Park, Canadian Fantasy, 25-1 Paint It Black, Unites, Academy FORM VÉRDICT

Provided the ground does not become too testing. WILLYELKRA - successful on good to soft in the autumn, but below that form in the mud since - will be tanced to reward his trish-based connections' enterprise. Newcomer Moving Arrow is suited by decent ground, while Es Go could be anchored by his double penalty, while Bawara and Meldrum Park appreciate a striter test of stamins.

3.00 MALTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) 4.00 BARTON NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE £4,000 added 2m 3f (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3m 1f 110yds 13-301 CHARMING ADMIRAL (IN (CD) Mrs A Swinbank 6 11 8.

•		Olbhamira i muma (a) fam) man i am ann an a
2	:1-P22	BANKER COUNT (24) M W Easterby 7 11 2 A P McCo
3	21-U-5	ECHO'S OF DAWN (17) J Upson 7 11 2R Suppl
4		FAN D'ESTRUVAL (FR) (59) M Todhunler 6 11 2 B Hasdin
5	0/345	JUST NED (339) J Haldane 8 11 2 B Store
6		MARCHANT MING (43) H Alexander 7 11 2
7		MENALDI (76) J Wade 9 17 2 A S Smith
8		OMYOUROWN (28) J Howard Johnson 6 11 2C McCommck (3
9	UTIFOY	PRIME STYLE (724) J Howard Johnson 10 TI 2 D Perfor
10	P0404P	TALATHATH (FR) (10) (D) J Curts 7 11 2
П	45 ^{P-50}	DRUMDONNA (25) P Beaumont 9 to 11
		FAUSTNLUCE LADY (24) W Smath 10 10 11 5 Taylor
		JESSOLLE (43) (BF) N Richards 7 10 11 A Dobble
И	0.0003	BRAVE MAN (38) J Curts 5 10 7
		- 14 declared -
₿E	TTING: 1	1-10 Banker Count, 5-2 Channing Admiral, 3-1 Jesaolie, 16-

Benker Count, Jessolle and CHARMING ADMIRAL, the three market leaders, stand head and shoulders above the rest.

,	21707	COURS OF DEGLE (11) 2 change in a
	40-4P	FAN D'ESTRUVAL (FR) (59) NJ Tochunier 6 71 2 B Handle
5	0/345	JUST NED (239) J Haldane 8 11 2 B Ston
ì		MARCHANT MING (43) H Alexander 7 11 2
7		MENALDI (75) J Wade 9 17 2
ļ		OMYOUROWN (28) J Howard Johnson 6 ft 2C McCommack (
ŀ	UTIFO	PRIME STYLE (724) J Howard Johnson 10 TI 2D Park
Q	P0404P	TALATHATH (FR) (10) (D) J Curts 7 11 2
1	45P-50	DRUMDONNA (25) P Beaumont 9 10 11
2	OPUODP	FAUSTNLUCE LADY (24) W Smath 10 10 11 5 Tayl
3	/653nD	JESSOLLE (43) (BF) N Richards 7 10 11 A Dobb
4	0-0003	BRAVE MAN (38) J Curts 5 10 7
		- 14 declared -
		11-10 Banker Count, 5-2 Channing Admiral, 3-1 Jessolle, 16
١	WOULDWA	L Brave Man, 20-1 Echo's Of Dawn, 33-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Charming Admiral gets the vote in the belief that he will handie the ground better than Jessolle and prove just too strong a galloper for Banker Count. 3.30 RIPON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) \$2,500 added 2m 3f

1	-80685	CLAREST	AN 250 (C)	Da BERIC Da	ryer 7 1/12 JN i	H Mauainton	6
2					4 π O		
3	020-00	MEHTADI	(66) S Carl	k 6 π 0		es R Clark	6
4	5P0200	PANCORA	ĿŚLÒRD(8	6) J Wainumo	#15 10 T3	A Dobi	d
5	2150P0	KIND PRIN	ACE (32) ñ 1	Altania 710	T	R McGa	di
6	4205	KINGSH	ISSAR (8) (Moore 4	109N	Hannity (5	١٧
7	46F03	PALISAND	ER (25)ŘI	Ford 5 10 8 .	M	Horrocks	(5)
8	44031P	JAGO (47)	(C) MWS	sesby 4 10 7		A P McCoy	Ė
9	22,P26	THAS (4	S) M Willerso	¥191Č5		W Marst	ы
10	240-00	FORTURE	HOPPER (4	69 Mrs D San	er 5 10 0	L Cooper	7
Τ.	00-805	LANACAR	LANE (36)	Más A Svenba	rk7100	Supple الــــــ	iB
3	205302	PEEPOD	(Y (112) A J	Lockwood 8	100	. T Siddelf (6
3	560	MELL ORC	HBD (61) R I	arbey 5 100.		G L	×
74	PPET.	BERTHPLA	CE (F18) J	L Eyre 9 10 0	C116	cCommack i	3
. 5	1453	CONNELS	CROFT (40	(BF) P.Sa	ns7100	A Thomaton	į
15	1600000	BRITANNA	MELLS (92	RJ Pross	100Mr	A Fornistal ([5]
17	005-0C	DUNSTON	HEATH (17	BLESNY 6	100W	/ Worthings	ŒΠ
18	3,2220	LORD FRE	DERBOX (40	N Clay 7 ≰	30	G Torm	9
12	245750	REAL FIRE	(25) M. Me	eather 5 10 0.	R	Wildrason i	51
20	-007	MEMBERS	WELCOME	M COM RB	imma 6 10 0 .	B Stor	W
21	855-0	ARRANGE	A GAME (6	1) G Kelly 12	100	S Tayl	o
			-21 (ieciared —			
u	CHARLES NO.	ookt 10st i	irue bendica	o senito P	han O Day I	All Carted S	ы

Manum whost: Tust. International weights: Paip O Day, Mill Orchof Sit. T3b, Bartgaco, Connels Croft Sit 18b, Brannie Mills Sit 11b, Dunston Heest Sit Sib, Lord Frederick Set Bib, Real Fire Set 5ib, Members Welcome Sit 4ib, Arzings A Gene St. Ob. BETTING: 5-1 Palisander, 5-1 Clairegusz, 13-2 Kind Prince, 7-1 Jago, 8-1 King's Housse, 8-1 Wynbary Flyer, Titasi, Conne's Croft, Peep O Dey, 12-1 Fortune Hopper, 15-1 others

FORM VERDICT

In the hope that a change of stable inspres a form revival, KIND PRINCE is given a chance to take advantage of a handy mark. There are question marks against Palisander, Titasi and Connel's Croft, and Wynbury Flyer could pose most problems.

Ŀ	1.00	(CLASS F) £3,000 added	3m 1f 110
1	4.P3n	DONNEGALE (17) (CD) T Tage 7 11 13 M	r J P McNamera
2	F50531	I'M THE MAN (28) (D) Mrs E Stack 8 TI 6	
3	2502	AZTEC PLYER (17) Mrs M Reveley 6 17 2	Mr A Dempe
4	4F-05	TIPPING TINA (77) W Storey 6 11 0	
5	32-746	TO-DAY TO-DAY (81) L Lungo 8 10 12	RS
6	4-053U	POLAR KING (17) C Thomson 6 10 9	M F
7	54.05	BRANCH END (75) J Charlton 7 10 8	B\$
8		SHARDANTE (73) J Jefferson 6 10 7	
9	93005-	PARTING THE WAVES (\$45) T Easterby	6106L
10	05406	FAIR FINNESH (59) W Clay 5 10 0	
π		SOUNDTOHONOUR (90) J Howard Joh	
		•• • •	C 11-C

SDZ V MIRKES SA 1270. 981 25. Ceptyrell 8st 1270. BETTING: 7-2 Donnegale, 4-1 Strandante, 5-1 I'm The Man, 6-1 Actec Piyer, Poter King, Branch End, 10-1 To-Day To-Day, Highfield Gent, Bonary Rigg,

Conditions are likely to prove ideal for the progressive DONNEGALE who can confirm recent course superiority over Aztec Flyer, who is hardly the most reliable of characters. Polar King can also get in the money.

(CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

GRETA BRIDGE HANDICAP CHASE

Harinum wight: 10st. True handicap weight-fathur Bee 8st 13b.

BETTING: 9-4 Minster Glory, 5-2 Takts Clock, 4-1 Prince Of Saints, 5-1
Golden Hello, 8-1 Tapasch, 16-1 Arthur Bee

FORM VERDICT

With Micky Hammonds string back to form it is tempting to side with Prince Of Salinta, who goes well here, but he was still a long way off his best two weeks ago, Minister Glory should be thereabouts agon, but on this slower surface it could pay to take a chance on TAITS CLOCK.

5.00 AYSGARTH INTERMEDIATE NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,750 added 2m

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF

6 SHADY SUSPECT (USA) M Hammond 4 10 10... N Horocks (5)

- 16 declared
BETTING: 5-2 Regal island, 3-1 inlands 5, by, 4-1 Errand Boy, 13-2 Supreme Fortune, What A Topper, 6-1 Shady Suspect, 20-1 One For All, 33-1 others FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDIC I

RELAND'S EYE was quite impressive in slamming a big field
over this course and distance on his debut, and may well be
up to delying a penalty. Regal letand and Supreme Fortune
are others with form well worth considering, while Errand Boy
and What A Topper are newcomers to note.

■ French Holly, second favourite for the Champion Hurdle, pleased trainer Ferdy Murphy in a workout after racing at Newcastle yesterday. French Holly went two miles with three stable-companions. They went a steady gallop before stepping up the pace in the last three furlongs and French Holly, Addington Boy and Paddy's Return finished upsides with Ardrina ten lengths achift. Murphy said afterwards: "French Holly is on course, he is taking a blow but hasdone the same as he did last year. Two more bits of work and he will be right." Grand National contender Addinated Row was neathered by Adrian Maguire and Murphy more bits of work and be will be right. "Grand Nanomal contender Addington Boy was partnered by Adrian Maguire and Murphy went on: "Adrian said be wished the Gold Cup was next Thursday - this horse is very, very well." Paddy's Return who goes for the Sayers' Hurdle pleased Murphy and his rider "lain [Jardinel's over the moon with him. He was as keen as hell but this is ground be would not have wanted," said Murphy. "I have no doubt be is on the way back." Ardina's target is the Rayal & SunAlliance (Novice) Chase and Murphy added: "JP McNamara rides her, there was a reason for her poor run the other day."

United ready to take Inter apart

it's not that good. And Man-chester United, four points clear BY IAN DAVIES at the top of the Premiership, can beat internazionale, only sixth-

13 points off the lead - in Serie A, in the first leg of their Euro-Trafford tomorrow night.

Since Dwight Yorke joined, United's flawed geniuses up front have developed into a club which pose a goal threat to any side from any angle. Dropping deeper than most strikers to fill the creative void which had existed in the middle since Eric Cantona departed, while simultaneously helping himself to 15 League goals, Yorke has given strike partner Andy Cole a new lease of life and provided Ryan Giggs, so fast, and David Beckham, so precise, with constant hope their efforts will bear fruit. United put three past Barcelona twice and scored two against Bayern in Munich. At Old Trafford, at least, they can score goals

Serie A - eight wins, a draw and two defeats - is OK, but on the road they have been woeful, winning just twice, drawing four and losing six. While United duly dispatched Southampton at the weekend. Inter were held to a goalless draw by the equally troubled Juventus at the San Siro. That dismal display came hot on the heels of defeats at Lazio and, humiliatingly, at lowly Perugia. In between, Interwere beaten 2-0 at home by Parma in the Italian Cup in a game in

For the Italian giants are in

disarray. Their home record in

against Inter

THE ITALIAN league is good, but SPORTS BETTING

panic-striken number were sent off in a single incident for

expressing their views a little too pean Cup quarter-final at Old colourfully to the referee. Despite conceding only 29 goals in 28 League games, United, with goalkeeper Peter Schemichel in decline and an error-prone back four, remain vulnerable to a class outfit

going forward. But, with Ronaldo under a cloud and veteran strikers Robert Baggio and Ivan "Bam Bam" Zamorano carrying injuries, along with Nicola Ventola, and the attacking French midfielder Youri Diorkaeff somewhat inconsistent, Inter lack the firepower to exploit this weakness. On Thursday, Chelsea

should have no trouble beating Valerenga in the first leg of their Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final tie at Stamford Bridge. LIVE ON TERRESTRIAL TV

Man Utd	grens	cytos	erens,	evens	evens
Draw	2-1	2-1	2-1	2-1	2-1
later	12-5	5-2	5-2	12-5	12-5
Cheisea	2-7	1-4	1-4	2-9	2-7
Draw	7-2	7-2	7-2	4-1	10-3
Valerenga	7-1	9-1	9-1	17-2	15-2
Other Sales mais: Atleno					
Bolozna to o	STATE WI	Dr. Lycon	D-2. H	. Li: Bo	и селих

to draw with Parma (15-8, C, H, L, S), litarpellites (sports betting's one-post selection of 20-1, nor 7-1) to bear Ceta Vigo (11-10, H). Presidentisher betting ham to bear Southampton (4-6, C, T). Southam to bear Southampton (4-6, C, T). Southam to bear Sustein Southampton (4-6, C, T). Southam to bear Southampton (4-6, C, T). Southam to bear Southampton (4-7, L, S). Immentis to bear Olympialns (2-5, C): Real Madrid to draws such Dynamo Keev (12-5, H). Presidentisher Shafffald Wednesday to bear Wimbledon (4-5, C, S). Thursdays Cup Williamser's Corp orarrer Finale Labourouth Bloscomer to bear Maccott Halfa (8-15, C, H, S); Paradons to draw with Lasto (5-2, L). Vertels Variation of draw with Lasto (5-2, L). Vertels Variation of draw with Lasto (5-2, L). Coral. H William Hall, L Ladorokes, S Spanley, T Tote to draw with Parma (15-8, C, H. L. S), Marsellle

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

SECOND DIVISION

THIRD DIVISION

NATIONWIDE

CONFERENCE

LINGFIELD

HYPERION

2.10 Bigwig 2.40 Squire Corrie 3.10 Sheer Native 3.40 Totom 4.10 Harik 4.40 Compton Akka

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PIVE-TEAR DIAINSTES

ILLEADING TRAINERS: G L Mogre 84-685 (137%) R Harmon 49-378 (1291 M Johnston 45-284 (165%), G Kallaway
45-533 (135%) IG JOCKEYS: A Clark 79-617 (128%), J Weaver 69-319 ELEMENTS JUCKEYS: A CREE 79-517 (125%), J Washer 69-39 (216%), B Sanders 65-583 (115%), R Cocheane 57-354 (61%), B FAVOURITES: 749-1220 (337%) SUNKERED MIRST TIME: My Little Man (visored, 340), Sick As A Perrot (340)

2.10 SHAKESPEARE AMATEURS H'CAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 1m 5f

— 13 declared —
Abhanum amphr Tal 10th Tale Sentences weights. It feet, Green Jacket Sc.
13th, Can miner Sc. 11th, John Europ Routes Sci. 10th
SECTING, 2-3 Shanghai LE, 3-1 Bigmig, 7-1 Double Flight, 16-1 Gee Bee
Bey, Calcinsett, 12-1 Gentandia, Don't Drop Bombs, 14-1 others FORM VERDICT

I the springs of depth and the a Mey to resolve meet into a died between the A-lorin par Shanghai Lill and BigWild, Pro-terice at the debter who is proven under these conditions. And remains relatively unexposed on the Flat.

2.40 BOOK A BOX FOR THE WINTER DERBY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 5f

12:102 HALF TONE (5) (CD) (BF) R Flower 7 100 _____ J Weather 1 8
-5034 SOURE CORREE (12) (CD) D Crepmen 7 9 13.4 Custame 6 8
-53300 DAAIDE TIMES (12) (D) N Knoy 4 8 13 _____ Meetin Dwysr 3 8
-50043 GLASTONBERY (10) (C) P Housing 3 8 10... ___ C. Rister 5
-50466 BOWCLIFTE GRANGE (19) (D) D Chepmen 7 8 4.J Ferming 2
-0006 PLEN GAZ (FR) (14) (C) R O'Sulven 6 93 ___ Spite Michael 4
-66626 DANCING JACK (12) (CD) J Bridger 8 8 0 ___ R Bristand (7) 7
- 7 declared -__ Telephone 6 1 Dannie

- 7 declared - BETTING: 9-4 Half Tone, 5-2 Squire Corrie, 5-1 Bovefilte Grange, 6-1 Dande Tiroes, 6-1 Glastonbury, 12-1 Dancing Jack, 14-1 Pieln Gaz FORM VERDICT

Half Tone has been running well, but the one draw may scup-per his chance and SQUIRE CORRIE looks to have his best opportunity for some time.

3.10 BOOKER FOODSERVICES EXTRAVAGANZA MAIDEN STAKES (D) £4,500 addled 1m 2f

- 8 declared -RETTING: 8-11 Sheer Native, 9-2 WEL Hettle, 6-1 My Little Man, 8-1 Man-FORM VERDICT Barry Hills has been making hay in these weak maidens here recordly and his SHEER NATIVE will be very hard to beat now she is record over a trip more in keeping with her breaking.

3.40 LADBROKE HANDICAP (CLASS D) \$10,000 added 1m 2f

— 14 declared —
Manting langut, 7st 10b, True handcan weight; Broughans Error Ast 90, SETTING: 7-2 Totom, 9-2 Bank On Him. 5-1 Powder River, 8-1 Philister, 10-1 Over To You, Hawkshill Henry, 12-1 Kings Arrow, 14-1 Others.

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Sick As A Perrot: AW debut, successful 5 times on turf at distances up to 1m3t. First outing since October 3 and yet to win on ground worse than good. Bintered first time Wadt: Madden winner at Pometract (1m2t, good to firm) in July. AW debut, first outing in a handicap and returns from a 7 month lay-off. Stable have gone over 8 months without a Rat winner Over To You: Returned from a 7 month lay-off when making a successful AW debut at Southwell (1m4f) last month with Powder Prev 43 lengths back in 7th.

Harr Trigger: C&D winner last season and was having his first outing since September when 7th to Bank On Him over C&D last month. Hes a 5th pull for 101/. lengths

Benk On Him: Attempts a has trick after winning over C&D last month and in January. Only 2b higher than last success by shift in from Thekywasil with Herr Trigger 7th and Kings Arrow 8th Tohom: Dual C&D winner, laises by 3 lengths from Kings Arrow, who has a 7th pull, last month, Had Kings Arrow (15b better off 81/. lengths back in 3rd when winning here in November. Remail: Madden winner here (1m) in November. Hes since nunciplated twice at Cagnes-su-Mer and planty to do at the weights Philister. Has won 4 times here, including once over C&D. Strugging 41 out when 2th to Bank On Him over C&D last month and only 7th better diff for 141/. lengths

Sea Danzig: C&D winner 3 times, but 4b above his inghest winning mark. First outing since finishing 18th of 19 to 10n Mountain at Lecester (1m2f, soft) in October Mono Lady: First outing since finishing 18th of 19 to 10n Mountain at Lecester (1m2f, soft) in October Mono Lady: First outing since in the high of 18 to 19 to 10n Mountain at Lecester (1m2f, soft) in October Mono Lady: First outing since finishing 18th of 19 to 10n Hourish at Lecester (1m2f, soft) in October Mono Lady: First outing since November winner on 3rd to Hever Got Glory at Wolverhampton (1m1/f) lest week.

Klogs Arrow: Besten 3t out when 8th to Bark On Him over C&D last month and only 2b better off for 127/e lengths.

Powder R

outpaced which 7m to Owel is You at Sourman (mm) as i more), but better run when 3rd to Genus here (tin) lest week Hawksbill Henry: C&D winner lest year off a 12th lower mark. Unable to quicken final furforig when 4th to Philiater over C&D in January and is only 1to better off for 31/s lengths Broughtons Error: Lightly raced on AW, did not appear to act on the surface when 9th of 10 to Teofilio here (tin) last month on first outing since June and has been dropped 4to

VERDICT: TOTOM looks an improving filly and even though she rurs off a 7th higher mark efter her latest course and dis-tance success, she probably possesses more scope 4.10 COME TO THE WINTER DERBY H'CAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 2m

FORM VERDICT The step up to two miles last week brought further improve ment from SLEAVE SILK, who had been running with cred-

4.40 WORDSWORTH CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS E) £3,500 added 1m

at over shorter and she is expected to follow up. The frustrating

5311-4 CASTLES BURNING (45) (CO) C Cyzer 5 9 TO... J Wesser 1 B

- 7 declared -

BETTING: 4-6 Compton Akks, 5-1 Castlet Burning, 8-1 Mister Tricky, 7-1 Nautical Warring, 10-1 Zimiri, 16-1 Patry Stone, 25-1 Sassetio FORM VERDICT

Compton Aiden is the obvious one, but there is a slight doubt about her staying this extra furlong and she is worth taking on at a short price. Castles Burning and Nautical Warning both have the form to go close, but there are valid reasons tor thinking MISTER TRICKY could put in an improved effort and he has a good chance if he does.

III Iftitah and Adakr, Godolphin's Classic hopes were gambled or yesterday. Iftitah's 2,000 Guiness odds were cut by Corals (8-1 from 12-1) and the Tote (7-1 from 12-1), Corals spokesman Simon Clare said: "With Aljabr doubtful, Iftitah is clearly Godolphin's number one hope for the colts' first Classic." Adair, \$3-1 with Ladbrokes on Friday for the Derby, was cut from 20-1 to 14-1. The Tole also took evasive action on Adair. Spokesman Tim Pickering saide: "We've had a flood of money for both liftitah and Adair and they have also been backed in doubles. 2,000 GUINEAS: Coral: 7-1 Mujetud, 8-1 tititeti), 10-1 Stravinsky,

12-1 Commander Collins, Enrique, 14-1 Auction House, Black Rock Desert, Jost Algarhoud, Orpen, 16-7 others. Tota: 6-1 Mushid, 7-1 Iftitati, 10-1 Auction House, Stravinsky, Commander Collins, 12-1 Blackrock Desert, Colour Instinct, 14-1 Enrique, Orpen, 20-1 others. DERBY: Ladbrokes: 10-1 Commander Collins, 14-1 Adaix, 16-1 Dubai Milenium, 20-1 Aliabr, Rhagaas, 25-1 bar Tote: 10-1 Commander Collins, 14-1 Aljabr, 20-1 Dubai Millenium, Tchaikovsky, 25-1 Alfabr, Ballet Master, Bienamando, Muthaaheb, Rhegass, 25-1 bar.

which three of their increasingly

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

FA CARLING

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION 4 Barmingham v Portsmouth
5 Bury v Crystal Patace
6 Crewe v Grimsby
7 Ipswich v Trammere
8 Port Valle v Bradford City
9 QPR v Widnes

9 OFR V Womes
10 Sunderland v Norwich
11 Swindon v Bolton
12 West Brom v Outord Utd

SECOND DIVISION 13 Bristol Rovers v York 14 Fulham v Lincoln City 15 Galingham v Preston ...

THIRD DIVISION

Að klóderminster v Hednesford

Not on coupons Kingstonlan v Morecambe:
Leek v Yeovil: Northwich v Kittering; Southport v Stevenings. Woking v Doncaster. Senttiss Cap Hitth records Ayr v Chydebank, or
Dundee Urd; Motherwell v St Johnstone.
Sundayr Rangers v Fallark. Mandagn Morron v Celtic. Scottiskih Pramiaer Langues Kilmannock v Dunfermike.

TER HOMES: Coventry v Chariton: Sunderland v Norvach: Fulham v Lincoln Ciry, Manchester City v Northampton. Reading v
Macclesfield; Wigna v Burnley; Leyton Crient v
Rochdise, Peterborough v Hartlepool; Rotherham v Barner; Alba v Parock.

FIVE AMERICA: Alba v Parock.

PAIR V Barray Se Port Vale v Bradford. Hull v Mansfield: Arbroath v Inverness CT. East File v Livingston: Barrow v Cheltenham.

Henry's foreign policy beefs up Wales

THEY USED to grow their own in Wales. They could whistle down the nearest mineshaft for a second-row forward, hack a scrum-half from the rocks around Cardiff Bay and pat themselves on the back as another genius of a No 10 tumbled off the production line at the fabled outside-half factory tucked away in the valleys. Not any more, sadly. Nowadays, Red Dragonhood covers the planet like a scarlet shroud, from Treorchy to the Transvaal, from Whitland to the Waikato.

When Graham Henry's deflated band of shop-soiled disciples head for Paris for their weekend tête-à-tête with the French, they will do so armed

BY CHRIS HEWETT

ing Peter Rogers (born in Maidstone, developed in Johannesburg, employed by London Irish, but boasting a father from Trimsaran) at loose-head prop and Brett Sinkinson (once of the Whaktane Marist club in New Zealand's Bay of Plenty, latterly of the Waikato Chiefs, but now of Neath) on the open-side flank. Rogers has been a tip for Test honours since Henry's arrival in the autumn, but no one saw Sinkinson coming, despite his Welsh grandparentage.

Rogers replaces Darren Morris at the sharp end of the Welsh scrummaging effort and thing: reverses against Scotland

it is a sign of Henry's concern and Ireland have sent the at the set-piece deficiencies of Welsh into a depression and his squad that he has changed the remaining two-thirds of his threesome. Garin Jenkins, the Pontypool hard nut who now plys his trade at Swansea, returns for the lightweight Barry Williams at hooker while Ben Evans, a second All White frontrower, takes over the tight-head duties from the injured David Young Unlike Jenkins, who has experienced pretty much everything Test rugby has to offer except consistent success, Evans has yet to start a full international. You can almost hear Christian Califano and Sylvain

Marconnet licking their lips. Still, Henry had to do some-

there would have been no point him flogging a dead horse in the august company of Raphael Ibanez and his double Grand Slam-winning Tricolores. Sinkinson, in particular, has been in blinding form of late, albeit against the half-baked opposition produced by a Welsh Premiership, and the 28-year-old flanker will at least bring some Super 12 know-how to the red-

Meanwhile, England recalled Victor Ubogu to their squad for this Saturday's set-to with the Irish in Dublin. Bath's Nigerian-born tight-head replaces Graham Rowntree of Leicester in an otherwise un-

shirted equation.

tree picked up an injury during on Saturday. his chib's weekend cup tie at Richmond - and his promotioncould scarcely be more weicome to those who rate him the form prop in the country.

Clive Woodward, the nation-

al coach, had been tempted to pull in Richmond's Darren Crompton until he realised that during Saturday's struggle at the Madejski Stadium. In the event, the 34-year-old Ubogu fits the bill perfectly; blessed with the ability to play on either side of the front row and renowned as a gifted ball-carrier with a startling turn of speed, he will almost certainly add to his 21 caps by taking the field as a

changed 22-man squad - Rown- 20-minute "impact substitute" "I considered Will Green of

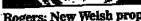
Wasps for the vacant position, but I've selected Victor on the hasis of his excellent club form and his experience at this level," explained Woodward. It was something of an aboutface; during his brief spell at Bath before taking on the Enghe too had been incapacitated land job 18 months ago, the coach had been less than impressed by what he considered to be Ubogu's half-hearted

attachment to training. Remarkably, only three of the current England squad - Jonny Wilkinson, Neil McCarthy and Lawrence Dallaglio - will be on Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final

which the mighty have been felled in the competition.

Yesterday's draw saw Wasps and Richmond given home advantage over Gloucester and Newcastie, respectively, and the pairings saved the Rugby Football Union a potentially itchy problem with Rob Andrew's Falcons, whose Geordie home at Kingston Park would not have met the 8,000 minimum capacity regulation.

Nothing in rughy is ever entirely straightforward, though: Wasps, scheduled to play their tie on Good Friday, are worried that Loftus Road will be unavailable to them because of a Queen's Park Rangers football



Lloyd lauds a doubles delight

Henman and Rusedski in tandem has the **British Davis Cup** captain relishing their potential. By John Roberts

FOR ONE so single-minded, David Lloyd was delighted to start the week with double vision - the sight of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski win-ning their first ATP Tour title together in the Guardian Direct Cup at Battersea Park, London, with the promise of success against the United States to come in the Davis Cup tie in Birmingham at Easter

The British pair, who did not concede a set in their four matches against regular teams, defeated the No 3 seeds, Byron Black, of Zimbabwe, and the South African Wayne Ferreira in Sunday's final, 6-3, 7-6.

Lloyd, the British captain, was contented, even though the he knew that Henman and Rusedski do not plan to make a habit of playing doubles outside the national cause.

"To be honest," Henman said, "I don't think we really have any ambitions in doubles. For us, we want to win the singles titles and we want to win Grand Slams, and I think if we were playing more and more doubles that would detract from that. Singles is what it's

about. Rusedski, defeated in Sunday's singles final by the Dutchman Richard Krajicek, 7-6, 6-7, 7-5, considers that the game has moved on since John McEnroe preached that doubles was the best form of practice for singles. "I think the Tour's a lot harder now than when McEnroe was plaving." Rusedski said. "In singles you could win maybe one or two rounds without having to exert yourself as much, whereas in the game nowadays in singles, if you're not sharp the first day you're out of the

tournament. The encouraging part is that Henman and Rusedski are prepared to play doubles in the Davis Cup, even it means having to contest three five-set matches on consecutive days.

"I think it's good," Rusedski said, "because having that day



Britain's Tim Henman (left) and Greg Rusedski: Tve always thought they were a world-class pair,' says Lloyd. I wouldn't bet against them on any fast court' Allsport

gles match] unless I'm playing well. I don't think there should be a problem if we have to play three matches in a row because we're professionals, plus it's indoors as well."

Henman agreed. "If you go to five sets in each match, you know you're capable of it," he said. "It's going to be taxing, but I'm sure we're good enough to be able to do that."

Lloyd had no doubts. "You can't ask for more than they did flast weekl," he said. "I thought they performed on that fast court exceptionally well. Tim, from the right-hand court, got better and better as the week went on, and in the end he was returning great. And for Greg

tough, three-sets singles I think mentally is very good for him. It showed a lot of character.

"I've always thought they

were a world-class pair, and this endorses it. I wouldn't bet against them on any fast to medium-fast court. They combined well - a pairing of left and right handers is always a big advantage - and Greg, with Tim at the net, can maybe serve for a year and not be broken. You've got a guy at the net with a pair of the quickest hands in the game, and he loves volleying.

"I'm really pleased for them. and I've got to thank the two coaches [David Felgate and Sven Groeneveld) for making my life very much easier. I wanted Tim and Greg to play to come out after losing a

together, and I was able to pick leying and just playing court to up the phone and ask. It's helped the players, too. They know we're all singing from the same hymn sheet. With the Davis Cup and the World Team Championship events coming up I think we've got a really good team spirit. On the court they were talking and liaising.

It's a healthy sign, and I couldn't be happier." As Henman said: "We knew we had the ingredients to be a good pair, but I think we were pleasantly surprised in the way we played. We improved a lot during the week. I thought the first match, against [Kevin] Ullyett and [Piet] Norval, was like we were playing singles out there. We were serving and vol-

court, and the guy at the net wasn't really doing a great deal. We didn't make many returns. What you saw in the final was a combination.

Rusedski complimented his partner. "I think my movement has got a lot better, because Tim's played a lot more doubles than I have, so he knows how to move better on the court."

Henman reciprocated, "You look at it from a serving point of view, and we played four matches, and I lost my serve once, and pretty much donated that game, and Greg hasn't lost his serve at all. So when you lose your serve once in eight sets, that is a good sign." All of which still leaves Lloyd

with the problem of finding reinforcements. The 32-year-old Neil Broad, who partnered Henman to the Olympic Games silver medal in Atlanta in 1996, remains the best option as an alternative for the doubles. He combined with Henman when Britain lost the doubles on the way to securing a return to the World Group against India in

Nottingham last September. "Neil's been terrific." Lloyd said. "When I told him on the morning of the doubles in Ukraine [that he wasn't playing], he was terrific about it. knows that if everything's right and Tim and Greg are both fit. they're going to play. He knew that against India, but as soon

as I told him he was playing, he was up for it. And he played very well this week [with the South African Robbie Koenig against Tim and Greg. He knows the score and he's a terrific team man. Those three nick themselves.

"The hardest bit is who else do you pick. It isn't easy, believe me. I suppose you've got to look at the worst and think one of them might get injured, or they have a long match and not be up for the next two days."

But Lloyd is not one to dwel on negative thoughts. "I'd He's a great team man. He rather be British than American," he trilled, laughing while adding, "but that's tongue-in-cheek." No point in over-playing the air of confidence.

Wigan call up rookie hooker

By DAVE HADFIELD

WIGAN ARE preparing to give their 17-year-old hooker, Mark Smith, his first taste of firstteam rugby in the opening son. Smith, last season's Academy player of the year at Wigan, is set to be called into the starting line-up in place of Mick Cassidy for the match against Hull on Friday night.

Their other potential hooker, Mark Reber, is needed at scrum-half to cover for the continuing absence of Tony Smith. Wigan's need to strengthen their squad has seen them extend their interest to St Helens' reserve stand-off, Scott Barrow, as well as his team-mate, Paul

The London Broncos have completed their squad for this season by signing the 24-yearold prop. Nathan Sologinkin, from the Canberra Raiders.

Wakefield Trinity's morale for the coming season has been boosted by a signing of a different sort. The supermarket giant, Sainsbury, has agreed a sponsorship deal with the newly promoted club worth £600,000 over two years.

The Lincoln Financial Group has agreed to extend its sponsorship of the Great Britain team to cover this autumo's Tri-Series against Australia and New Zealand. Lincoln, which sponsored the Test series against the Kiwis last year, is also to provide backing for Britain's senior referees this

The League's director of referees, Greg McCallum, is to issue a stern warning to coaches at a meeting next Monday that the sort of persistent lyingon in the tackle that marred the Challenge Cup tie between Leeds and St Helens on Saturday will not be tolerated. McCallum was furious with the infringements that prevented the match from achieving any

Hollow win for Cardiff

CARDIFF DEVILS overcame Manchester Storm 2-1 in front of a capacity arena in south Wales on Sunday night – but the borne victory was a hollow one, with Storm having pipped them to the Sekonda Superleague title the previous day.

The hosts had to win the hard way, coming from behind after Mike Morin had given Storm the lead in the second period. But in the final session the Devils scored twice in a littie more than two minutes with a short-handed goal from Kip Noble and the game winner from Martin Lindman four minutes from the end.

Bracknell Bees, determined to hang on to fourth position, cruised to a 5-1 home victory over Nottingham Panthers, with last season's Superleague champions, Ayr Scottish Eagles, shumping to a 3-2 away defeat at Newcastle Riverkings.

Sheffield Steelers' run of four successive victories was halted when their weakened side was held to a 2-2 draw after overtime at the bottom club. London Knights,

Results, Digest, page 25

La Costa too cosy for matchplay

AS TIGER WOODS walked to the 16th tee at La Costa last Friday afternoon, precariously placed at two down with three to play against eventual the champion. Jeff Maggert, a spectator pleaded: "Don't make us watch baskethall on Sunday, Tiger." By then, Woods was at home and probably watching the only sport that fills American television screens at this time of year.

Advertisements in newspapers during the week for ABC TV's weekend coverage of the Andersen Consulting World Matchplay Championship featured Woods, David Duval and Ernie Els. but instead four of the chorus line from the US Tour were the only players in action. A final between Maggert, the 24th seed, and Andrew Magee, the 50th seed, was never going to continue the streak of the previous two Sundays when the golf, with Woods in contention, gained higher ratings than the basketball.

Ironically, one of the aims of the World Golf Championships hidden away on cable channels is to offer huge pay-outs like the S1m (2645,000) Maggert re- to grab the drama at the week-

GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL

ceived, to go along with the Walter Hagen Cup, and boost the earnings of professional golfers in comparison with others in American sports. Duval's record \$2.6m from the US tour last year was still less than the average salary in the NBA.

If it all sounds like a \$5m mistake by the sponsors, it actually shows up the fact that television has still not come to terms with matchplay golf.

In the past, TV hated the head-to-head format because matches might not reach their fixed camera positions at the closing holes. Now, in the days of roving cameras covering all 18 holes and the positive image events like the Ryder Cup have given matchplay, the problem is fixed schedules.

It is the custom in the States for the midweek rounds to be and for the national networks

every shot mattered from the moment Nick Price teed off against Frankie Minoza on Vednesday morning. The drama came thick and

fast on the opening few days. That it did not last was disappointing - although Maggert secured his biggest pay-day by dramatically chipping in at the 38th hole of the final - but should not doom the event in its infancy. New characters such as Japan's Shigeki Maruyama, Sweden's Patrik Sjoland and the Argentinian Eduardo Romero came to the fore but, Woods excepted, the leading stars found that reputation counted for nothing. Certainly, Montgomerie against Stadler aside, there were few heavyweight confrontations that lived up to a local TV presenters prediction that

wrestling with long pants". It was only four months ago that Wentworth staged a memorable Woods-O'Meara final in

this event would be like "sumo

end. This works fine for regu- the Cisco World Matchplay and ary and suffered accordingly. lar strokeplay tournaments that event will continue to thrive where the early action is large on its 36-hole, 12-man élite forly forgettable but this week mat, as long as they are prepared to put up a purse to attract the 12 best players and not just 12 available IMG clients.

Its younger sister, with matches over 18 holes, badly needs to upgrade its venue. La Costa may have been a cosy home for the gentle, seasonopening Tournament of Champions on the US Tour but did not provide enough of a test to define the better players. Magee feels comfortable at La Costa because "I can fade the ball off every tee. I don't need to hit a

A true championship layout which tests the whole game should be found for the event and will be provided when it travels to Melbourne in 2001. But for two of the next three years it will remain at La Costa, clear advantage to the US Tour players who are tournament fit after playing the West Coast swing. Europeans such as Colin Montgomerie and Lee Westwood took off all of Janu-

Taking the field directly from the world rankings did not help the Europeans' cause and at least 20 should be guaranteed a start as opposed to the 11 who Overall, the impression was

too much of a US Tour event rather than a major occasion as Maggert went to the top of the American money list with his \$1m first prize, ahead of Duval and Woods. But in terms of Ryder Cup points, Maggert only gained as many points as the winner of the concurrent Tucson Open and every other US Tour event. While Europe's big names

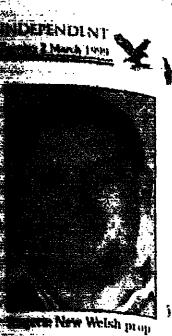
were failing at La Costa, Sweden's Gabriel Hiertstedt won the Tucson Open in Arizona. The 27-year-old landed a 25-foot birdle putt on the first play-off hole to beat America's Tommy Armour and qualifies for a place in the Masters at Augusta in April.
ANDERSEN CONSULTING WORLD

ANDERSEN CONSULTING WORLD MATCHPLAY CHAMPORSHIP (In Cos-ta, Carlsbad, Calif, all players US): Pland (36 holes): J Maggert bt A Mager at 38th. Third place play-ord (18 holes): J Huston bt 5 Pate 5 and 4.



Jeff Maggert celebrates after chipping in for victory

● ●



booker Mark booker of first baste of first the opening League son-the year at the year at the ealled into the up in place or the principle of the principle of the principle of the place of the principle of the place of the principle of the place of the p Their star potential hooke: Mark Mahar, in needed at normalish to have for the con-Mandage absence of Tony Smale ours used to strengthen their spied has seen them ex-tend their interest to St Heleneries stand-off, Scott Barren as will as the team mate. P.m.

.The London Broncos have campleted their squad for the season by signing the 24 year old prop. Nathan Sologinkin. from the Canberra Raiders.

Wakefield Brinky's morale for the coming season has been becated by a staning of a difperent sort. The supermented giant Sainsbury has agreed a newly premoted club worth 2800,000 over two years.

The Lincoln Financial Group has agreed to extend its sponsorship of the Great Britain bearn to cover this actions is Tri Series attainet Australia and New Zealand Luncoin, which sponsored the Test serienestinal the Kiwis last team is sies to provide backing in Britain's schier reference the

The Langue a director : reducers, three Mrt alhum math k stern warning in case. es at a merculy level Moral a (Hat the ब्लाई के persustent is .:: on at the tackle that mater if the Challenge Cup tie halum" Levels and M lishes show. day will not be televated McCallum was furame a fire where the private the finish from when it is

Hollow win for Cardiff

ICE ROCKEY CARINET DELES -**विकास रिल्डिस स्ट्रिस्ट र** M + staggerte attention ... States an Sandar 214 1 Company of the Lot of **电影 经机制 押**5万字 5 - . . . to the telephonia **國際 随時 国际**计划中心 The Breats ? ...

terd was commercial Marie Marie Magras the least " parted that in life ! THE CHIEF HE WAY TO SEE Senter Contraction A Mart baroles W 200 lbr ; THE PERSON LANG. Mile Bran Line Com Brackway Inc.

GERARD HOULLIER has requested a personal hearing to defend himself against a misconduct charge laid by the Football Association. The Liverpool manager was shocked to discover that, 17 days after his criticism of the

Birmingham referee Mike ed, it has been decided to the FA's observations. That has bring him before Lancaster Gate's disciplinary bosses. The reason for the delay is that the FA's "sleaze buster", Graham Bean, has been on holiday.

Carragher at Charlton to spark over remarks he made to an-Houllier's outburst, did not

French

clubs vie

for Uefa

advance

FRENCH CLUBS will tonight

try to make up for the country's

European Cup failure this sea-

son by securing three of the

fourth berths in the Uefa Cup

Lyon, the top three in the

league standings, are attempt-ing to become the first French

side to win the tournament.

Marseilles are at home to Celta

Vigo, Bordeaux entertain

Parma and Lyon travel to

Bologna in a quarter-final line-

up comprising only French, Italian and Spanish clubs. The

Italians could also claim three

semi-final places, with Roma

Naying Atletico Madrid away in

Milan on their way to the 1996

final, face arguably the tough-

est task against the favourites

Parma, winners in 1995 and cur-

rently second in Serie A despite

being hit by injuries and sus-

pensions in their recent games.

midfielder, Alain Boghossian, is

out but Dino Baggio, having

recovered from a foot injury,

should return along with the

Argentinian playmaker Juan

Veron, who has been

suspended. Celta Vigo are

arguably Spain's best hope of a

place in the last four. Atletico,

Aguliar, face a Roma side who

played brilliantly in Saturday's

Bologna have had a

remarkable run all the way

from the InterToto Cup, but

their morale has been hit by a

5-0 thrashing by Piacenza at the

weekend. They welcome back

striker Giuseppe Signori from

Lyon, 1-0 winners at Paris St-

Germain last week, are without

their suspended Swiss striker.

BADMINTON

Lars Sologub, of Sweden, has been named as the coach of the British team which will be competing in the

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LENGUE: Chester Jens 76 Newcastie Eagles 82

Previousis e Egypt 52: NBAC Philodophia 97 Mileosukee 76: Utah 101 San Antonio 87: LA Listers 106 Hous-ten 94: Detrois 89 New York 64; Alkans 84: Criando 78: Pentiand 100 Milmesota 93: Promis 85 (or), Denvet 116 Wastouker 112

BOWLS

Eastbourne's Carol Ashby survived Debbie Talbot's challenge to win the Women's All-England Under-31s singles indoor title at the ISCA Centre, Easter on Sunday night.

Singles Indoor title at the ISCA Centre, Easter on Sunday night.

Women's All-England Under-31s singles, Samb-Inamir: Disbot (Barnaley Memoschett et at haves (Chevwell 21-11.

Carboy Eduthoune: bt 5 Serman (Cite of Br) 31-15. Fleat hanby to Eabto 11-20.

Patient Childhamhig seasi-Finale: Preston it houses Brighten its Strutti 23-7. Landing Redoorly by Worther and I Brown in 11-12. Chambien of themplane that remails it What (Church Greshold II Francis 11-12. Fleat hand (Church Greshold III Francis II Francis II

next year's Sydney Olympics.

suspension.

Marco Grassi.

1-0 Serie A defeat of Milan.

Parma's French World Cup

Bordeaux, who eliminated

tonight's first leg.

Marseilles, Bordeaux and

BY ALAN NIXON

complain to the FA about Houllier's comments. Instead he left it in Bean's hands by sending him newspaper cuttings and a covering letter asking for

Houllier said was considered serious enough to charge him. Coventry's chairman, Bryan Richardson, has been fined £500 Reed, who sent off Jamie and warned about his conduct

his club's 2-1 defeat at Wimble-don in December. Carlisle's chairman, Michael Knighton, has also been fined £250 and warned about his conduct after commenting about the referee after his team's game against Hartlepool on 12 December

Houllier seeks FA hearing

Derby's Argentinian defender, Horacio Carbonari, has eventually meant that what been given a £1,000 and a suspended one-match ban as a result of a misconduct charge for crowd incitement after scoring against Nottingham Forest in a 2-2 draw in November.

Liverpool and Kenny other referee, Steve Dunn, after Dalglish's consortium, which

includes the rock musician Jim Kerr, have distanced themselves from speculation linking the former Kop idol with an Anfield takeover. A Liverpool statement read: "Liverpool FC has had no approaches from anyone

هدا من الاعلى

wanting to buy the club." Aston Villa's manager, John Gregory, was also busy countering rumours. He dismissed reports linking him with a move to Atletico Madrid as Arrigo Sacchi's replacement as "pure speculation.

Similarly, Tottenham have dismissed reports linking their captain, Sol Campbell, with a multi-million pound move to Palace have not yet paid Man-Real Madrid. Campbell yesterday had his

court case for the alleged assault of a steward at Derby's Pride Park adjourned until 30 March. The case will be heard by Derby magistrates after Tottenham's Worthington Cup final against Leicester and three days after England's European Championship qualifying match against Poland.

The problems at Crystal Palace are mounting. Their intended fund-raising sale of Lee Bradbury to Birmingham City has been called off, because

chester City for him. Bradbury joined Palace five months ago in a deal worth £1.2m up front and the rest based on appearances. However City are still waiting for the money.

John Gorman, Glenn Hoddle assistant when he was England's coach, has succeeded his fellow Scot Stewart Houston as first team coach at Ipswich Town. Houston joined Tottenham after Saturday's match at Bristol City, linking up again with George Graham, with whom he had a successful partnership at Arsenal.

Championships team.

in the Atlanta Olympics. Yes-Henrik Nilsson, the first Swede to row in the Boat Race in 1998 and a competitor in the double scull in Atlanta.

dream of an all-British allundergraduate race, the mix faster and closer races.

Tense race promised by

OXFORD UNIVERSITY went through the formal protocol of challenging Cambridge to a boat race from Putney to Mortlake for the 145th time yesterday and mercifully were accepted. Otherwise 18 competitors of considerable brain would have been loose on the streets of Putney with little but mayhem to cause.

April, are the equivalent in standard to the Under-23 World Championship eights and again look well matched. Each has a rich blend of experienced oarsmen with senior international experience and talented youth.

familiar mix

The crews for the race, starting at 3.30pm on Saturday 3

The voungest man in each crew is 20. Dan Snow for Oxford and Tom Stallard at Cambridge are each products of the rowing public schools and were on the same 1996 Junior World

The oldest in each is, in the modern Boat Race tradition, foreign and an Olympian, Brad Crombie, 28 and the Light Blue president, is a Canadian international who was spare man terday was the 30th birthday of However much it upsets

and match of nationalities and experience that are a genuine reflection of the student body at either place has provided much

habit from the mid-Seventies more up for it."

BY HUGH MATHESON

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until 1993, have tried to break back with steadily better crews for the past three years only to find Cambridge going even faster. Last year both crews shattered the previous record. Since then Cambridge have lost several key athletes, including Alex Story, who came to the crew late but was a crucial influence. The Light Blue president,

Crombie, can still rely on the winning experience of Graham Smith who, still only 23, first won a junior world gold in 1991. and on Toby Wallace, who has a shorter pedigree but at 6ft 7in. has the better levers. As Robin Williams, their

coach, said: "I feel we need to plan the race tactically. We should spread the experience through the boat and give the right backing to those who have not done it before. We will need the right mind in the right seat regardless of how well they row or how strong they are." At Oxford one of the most ex-

perienced, James Roycroft, has lost his seat to a man who rowed in the winning reserve crew last year. There are three surviving

those spectators who still Blues, last year's president Andrew Lindsay, the Swede Nilsson and the president this time. Charlie Humphreys. Sean Bowden, the Dark Blue coach, for the last two races says: "They are not ahead in plain strength but I think the racing tem-Oxford, who had the winning perament is right. They are **BOAT RACE CREWS**

CAMBRIDGE

D O M. Exis (Harvard, US, and Trinity) 23, 6ft 5in, 14st 6lb

G D C R Smith (UCL and St Edmund's) 23, 6ft 3.75in, 14st 5fb T A Stallard (Jesus) 20, 6ft 3,5in, 13st T J Wellace (Jesus) 22, 6ft 7in, 15st 7ib:

A J West (Yale, US, and Gonville and Calus) 22, 6ft 8in, 14st 11fb K West (Christ's) 21, 6ft 8in, 14st 11ib T Wooge (Ger) (North-Eastern Univ. US, and Magdalene) 26, 6ft 7.75in, 15st 4lb V Sharif (cox) (Clare) 19, 5ft. 7st 6fb.

OXFORD

T H Ayer (US, Worcester) 24, 6ft 5in.

15st 9lb M A L Crooks (Milibay, Can, and St Anne's) 22, 6lt 2in, 14st 1lb M M Crotty (US, Keble) 23. 6ft 5in, 14st 12lb C Von Ettingshausen (Ger. Keble) 2 6ft 4.5in, 15st 2lb C P A Humphreys (president) (Hampton School and Oriel College) 22, 6ft

A J R Lindsay (Eton and Brasenose) 22, 6ft 1in, 14st 3ib 22, 6ft lin, 14st 3lb
1. H K Mitsson (Univ of Lund, Swe, and Hertford) 30, 6ft 3.25in, 14st 1lb
D R Snow (St Paul's and Balikol) 20, 6ft 6in, 15st 9lb
N J O'Dommell (cox) (Rutgers Univ, US and Keble) 23, 5ft 9in, 8st 8lb.

TOMORROW



Former Formula One world champion Damon Hill takes Brian Viner on a circuit of Bill Gates, Lear jets, body heat and why grand prix racing is like boxing

Boavista ready to constrict 'big three' protest against penalties im-COLOMBIA

On the horns of a dilemma: Supporters and stewards of FC Zurich attempt to catch a bull in the stands of the club's Letzigrund stadium

before the Swiss premier league match against St Gallen on Sunday. The bull had been bought by fans as a mascot after it was threatened

with an appointment at the local abattoir, but it broke free from its minder and climbed into the stands before the game could start AFP

PORTUGAL

THE RACE for the Portuguese under their new coach, Carlos title could go all the way to the Graeme Souness's side travfinal day and, for the first time in 53 years, a club outside the

"big three" may lift the trophy. At this stage last season, Porto held a commanding ninepoint lead over Benfica and they maintained that gap as they cruised to their fourth successive league triumph. With just 10 games to go in the current campaign Porto are again setting the pace, but Benfice and the outsiders Boavista

are just one point behind. Benfica took advantage of a

tense 0-0 draw in the derby between Boavista and Porto on Sunday to close on the leaders. elled across Lisbon to Alverca and came away with a 2-0 win, with the Welsh striker Dean Saunders opening the scoring.

Boavista have won the Portuguese Cup five times but have never come close to lifting the league title, which has been the exclusive preserve of the "big three" - Porto, Benfica and Sporting Lisbon - for the past 50 years. Since the league started in 1935, the only club outside that trio to win the title was Belenenses in 1946.

GOLF

Jeff Maggert entered the top 20 in the world rankings for the first time yesterday after beating Andrew Magee to the World Matchplay Championship on Sunday, Maggert, who won in the second play-off hole

who won in the second play-orr note at La Costa, moves up 10 places to 15th while Magee another American moves up 12 places to 39th. Tiger Woods remains top of the rankings although his lead over David Duval has been reduced.

Duval has been reduced.

1904LD RANKINGS (US suless stated):
1 Woods 12.79pts ave: 2 D Duval 11 13:
3 D Love III 9 88. 4 E Es (5A) 9.61; 5 M
O'Meara 9.47; 6 L Westwood (68): 9.07; 7
C Mongomerie (GB) 8 60; 8 V Singh (Fin)
8.28; 9 N Proc (Cim) 8 16; 10 Leonard 7.44;
11 J Funyl: 7.27, 12 P Mickelson 7.19; 13
F Couples 7.05, 14 M Ozaki (Japan) 6.77;
15 J Maggert 6.27; 165 Ekington (Jost 5.95;
17 D Clarke (GB) 5.75; 18 J Parnevik (Swe)
5 50; 19 P Stewart 5.37; 20 L Janzen 5.09.

WOORD D MATCHPLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

TODAY'S FIXTURES



AROUND THE WORLD EDITED BY RUPERT METCALF

ALBANIA

team Burreli have ended a 10-

day hunger strike launched in

THE ALBANIAN First Division

posed by the Balkan country's football federation.

federation warned them either to play their next match or suffer relegation to the Second Division. The club, who had three of their players rushed to hospital after the strike was called off, will play Apollonia Fier in Tirana today. They were banned from playing at home for four matches after gunshots rang out during a match against SK Tirana in December and two of their players kicked

THE FORMER Newcastle Burreli's 17 players halted striker Faustino Asprilla has the strike on Sunday after the been restored to the Colombian national side after his banishment from the World Cup - but he is still not a happy man. Last week he complained that he was only given economy-class tickets to fly from Italy, where he plays for Parma, to Miami, where he scored twice in last month's 3-3 draw with Germany. "To belong to the national team is to suffer," he said. The Colombian Football Federation has responded by telling him not to complain in public.

SPORTING DIGEST

off hole). T Armour 70 69 67 70 277 M Reid 71 67 71 68; K Triplett 69 69 70 69. 278 B Geberger 72 68 68 70; B Onesman 71 66 69 72: 279 N Heoke 71 70 71 67; C Pavin 71 68 71 69; S Gump 68 67 74 70; F Langhan 70 68 71 70; E Rustand 70 69 70 70; D Toms 68 69 71 71, 280 Style (68) 68 70 74 68; S Flesch 67 72 72 69; P Stankowski 71 71 69 69; D Dunakey 66 70 73 71; J Carter 69 69 71 71; K Perry 69 68 71 72; M Weir 68 72 67 73, Selected other er: 287 P-U Johansson (Swe) 68 70 73 76. RYDER CUT TABLE SLeading places: Ea-EHA CUP Semi-final draw: Cannock Southgate: Old Loughtonians v Readin (Ties to be played Sunday, 25 April). ICE HOCKEY

and punched the referee.

MOTOR RACING

Arrows Grand Prix have announced

that Japan's Toranosuke Takagi will be driving for their team alongside the Spanlard, Pedro de la Rosa, in

tional centre, will join Bristol, the Premiership Two leaders, next seaflight either through promotion or the buy-out of London Scottish. Bob Dwyer, Bristol's coach, has also signed Michael Horak, the Leicester full-back ason Little, the New South Wales

and Australian Test centre, could be out for up to eight weeks after fracturing his collar-bone during the 13-13 draw with South Africa's Sharks on Saturday.

NUMBER

The number of medals Norway's top cross-country skier, Bjorn Daehlie, has won in world and Olympic competition. On Sunday, though, he returned home from the Nordic World

Championships, held in Austria, without a gold

ENGLAND UNIDER-21 TEAM (v Ireland Under-21s, at St Many's College, Dublin, Friday): I Batshaw (Bath): R Thirlips (Sazcers). B Johnston (Saracers). M Tindall (Bath). L Best (Richmond): D Walder (Durham University). P Richards (London Irish): D Flatman (Saracers). S Walter (Northampton). J Dawsson (Sazcers). S Borthwick (Bath). A Brown (Pontypool). A Sanderson (Sale. capt). L Macedy (Leicester). Replacameniss: M Walter (Rotterham). J Pritchard (Briston). J Bramball (Northampton). M Waard (Newcastle). J Hayber (Criell). J Ruje (Newcastle). A Hazell (Gloucester).

(Giouester),
SCOTLAND UNIDER-21 TEAM (v km) Under-21s, Old Annierland, Gizegow, Fridagi: P Rutherford [Feebles]: R Herr (West of Scotland), I Michroy (West of Scotland), I Michroy (West of Scotland), I Michroy (West of Scotland), A Dickson (Selkir), All Di Rollo (Wassoniars): P Rezerson (Sello), R Chrystie (Merose): A Jacobsen (Prescon Lodge FP), M Joses (Northempton), L Harrison (Exeter), J Whithe (Glasgow Caledonians), T Palmer (Lects), S Taylor (Heriot's FP), F Gladstone (Rugby Llons, Capt), A Marriya (Botoughmir), Replacemente B Ruthwen (Metoce), G Ross (Heriot's FP), M Lee (Berwick), A

(West of Scotland).

Sootland A beam (v Italy A, Netherdale, Friday): S Lang (Edinburgh Reivers); C Moir (Northampton). J Mayer (Edinburgh Reivers). R Erfisason (London Scotlish). C Joiner (Leicester): A Donaldson (Currie). G Stotland (Currie). G Stotland (Currie). G Stotland (Currie). G Stotland (Currie). Follower of Falcons). G Scotland (Catagow Caledonians), M Provadiose (Edinburgh Reivers). J Campbell (Glasgow Caledonians), C Matther (Edinburgh Reivers). S Reid (Capt Leeds). S Holmes (London Scottish). Raplacaments: M McKenzile (Bourgoin-Jalleu). D Officer (Harlequins). G Bewardigs (Glasgow Caledonians). I Sinclar (Edinburgh Reivers). C Hogg (Edinburgh Reivers). W App. TETLEY'S BITTER CUP Serol-float dra (Ties to be played 2/3 April).

Betwee (West of Scotland), C DI Clacca (West of Scotland).

SNOOKER LIVERPOOL VICTORIA CHARITY CHAL-LENGE (Darby) Final: J Higgins (Soo) bt R O'Sulfren (Eng) 9-4.

Good higher runs 10

....90% Good upper runs 130 320

Glenshee 100% Deep fresh snow 35 55 28.2 -2C

THABLAND MASTERS (Bangkok) First round: I McCulloch (Engl be P Brothiprasong (Thal) 5-1: H Abernethy (Sco) bt A Mahitchi (Thal) 5-3. D Finbow (Engl bt K Poomlang (Thal) 5-2: Chan Wal Tar (HK) bt D Reynolds (Engl with SQUASH

Scotland's Peter Nicol vesterday celebrated his 14th month at No 1 in the world rankings.

GUARDIAN DIRECT CUP (8 London) Men's doubles Rusi: London) Men's doubles final: T Herman and G Rusedsid (GB) br B Black (ZIm) and W Ferreira (SA) 6-3 7-6.

SUPERTHRIFT CLASSIC (Oklahoma City) Women's singles Rnal: V Williams (US) bt A Coetzer (SA) 6-4 6-0. A CDECZE (5A) 6-4 G-U.
ATP TOUR RANKINGS: 1 P Sampras (US)
3,449pcs; 2 Y Karlenikov (Rus) 3,342: 3 A
Corresia (Sp) 3,250: 4 C Moya (Sp) 3,234:
5 P Rafter (Aus) 3,138; 6 M Rios (Ovile)
2,880: 7 T Henman (GB) 2,764; 8 R Krajkok
(Neth) 2,702: 9 A Agossi (US) 2,583; 10 G
Rusedski (GB) 2,439

Slopes (cm) Last Temp

60 290

125 295

30 50

40 90

95 115 22.2 -6C Clearing

65 140 21.2 -13C Cloudy

-2C

1C Variable

-2C Changeable

1.3 -2C Showers

24.2

75 180 23.2 -5C

24.2

24.2

23.2

23.2

65 155 20.2 -16C

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TRAVEL TRAVELMOE

has yet to announce Hide's opponent CRICKET TOUR MATTER (Februs & Pferre, Winkledt third day of hear). What index: Prevalent's H 17 //h R T Korph & S C G Mactial 6-40 and 18 // R R p Systems 53: S C G Mactial 7-20 Australia Mel (M F Wangh 106: R D Rug 1-25) Australia Mel (M F Wangh 106: R D Rug 1-25) Australia with by an lookings and also resid.

BOXING

Herbie Hide will defend his World Box

ing Organisation heavyweight tarte at the Royal Albert Hall on 3 April. Hade had to withdraw five days ahead of

his defence against America's Orlan Norts in Newcastle on 13 February

because of a stress-related skin allergy His promoter, Frank Warren,

and six fund.
Busin Cup: Semi-final (Bridgetown,
Busin Cup: Semi-final (Bridgetown,
Busin Cup: Semi-final tary of three):
Lima: a 200; IR Farred 114 at C Collymore
Lima: a 200; IR Farred 114 at C Collymore
Lima: a 200; IR Farred 114 at C Collymore
Lima: C C Busin C Layle 5. No. Campbell 66.
R (Calm. G. N. Perry 5-56).

CACTING HUGGING BETTERELS HISTORIE FACE (TESTAM): That unless stocked: T 1 Planck-ers Lette the State Other. 2 i Musecher Annes with page 2 & Terra Letto "NC. A Changos pin La Fernanc des Seus 12. 3 Lections, Methy Title & P. Mar Program (M. 7 Plancy proce (Dest Rainflank, 2 A Figura (An)

FOOTBALL

Berti Vogts, the former Germany coach, has joined his old club Borus-sia Monchengladbach, the Bun-desliga's bottom club, as a director. Northern Ireland will play France, the world champions, in a friendly in Belfast on 18 August. Miguel Dominguez, a 19-year-old Paraguayan striker who has joined Middlesbrough on loan, is expect-ed to make his debut against

Rangers in Alan McLaren's testi-monial match at forex tonight. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Postponed: Reading v Arsenal. Division: Postponed: Reading v Arsenal. PONTINS LEAGUE Third Division: Postponed: Carliste v Scunthorpe. YENNENTS SCOTTESH CUP Fourth round: Poseponed: Clydebank v Dundee Utd (play-

DK LEAGUE: Vertil O AEX Athens 3 MATIONNEDS LEAGUE Photore change: Mor 25 Apr. QPR v Bradford City (from 24 Apr.)

o ou. 19 P Stewart 5.37; 20 L Janzen 5.09; WORLD MATCHPLAY CHAMBTONSHIP (Carisbad, California); (all US players); Phai round: J Maggert bt A Magge at 35th role. Third place play-off: J Huston bt S Pare 5 and 4. LOAN: Andy Collect (goalkeeper) Bri Rayers to Rushtlen & Damonds.

7 30 unless stated UERA CUP
QUARTER-FINALS
FIRST-LEG
Atietica Madrid v Roma (8.30)
Boriogna v Lyons (4.30)
Boriogna v Parma (6.30)
Colta Jones (8.15) Nacseilles v Celta Vigo (8.15).... NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

FOOTBALL

Huddersheld v Bolt Processing to the state of the

SECOND DIVISION THIRD DIVISION
Durington v Exeler (7.45)

eyton Orient v Torquay (7.45).... SCOTTISH LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION Ross County v East Stirling SEMIL-PROFESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL

England v flaly
or Hoyes FC
ENDSLEIGH CHALLENGE TROPHY
Courter-Reals Donester v Northwich

son Rothwell Town v Worcester City
Signa Rothwell Town v Worcester City
(7.45), Middland Dhission: Bishenall v Coderford Town; Redditch Little v Evestiam
Utd: Stourbridge v Solihull Borough.
Southern Dhission: Ashford Town v Chelmsterd City: Bashley v Vittney Town.
League Cup Third round: Bedworth Utd
v Sutton Coldfield. Third round replay: Briston Town v Burton Albron.
WRNSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Premier Division: Beckennem Town v Sheppey Utd: Greenwich Borough v Chatham
Town; Herne Bay v Faversham Town; Ramsgate v Tharnesmead Town; Stade Green v
Tunbridge Wells.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Presider Divi-

UNILSPORT UNITED COUNTRES LEAGUE

Premier Division: St Neots v Wootton: Stewarts & Lloyds Corby v Ford Sports.

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division:
Aylesbury v Heybridge: Boreham Wood v
Slough: Bromley v St Albams. First Divisions: Grays Athletic v Braintree Town:
Leatherhead v Wealdstone; Leyton Penant v Berkhamsted Town: Oxford City v
Whyteleafe; Lubridge v Yeading. Second
Division: Banstead Athletic v Harlow Town:
Bracknell Town v Thame Utg; Hemel
Hempstead v Wivenhoe Town: Hungerford
Town v Hertford Town; Windsor & Eton v
Horsham Third Division: Capton v
Egham Town: Cheshunt v Croydon Athletic: SCREWITX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Sishop Surron v Paulton Rovers: Caine v Backwell, Les Phillips Cop Quarter-finals: Devizes v Yeovil. NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE First Dhislon: Leck (SOB v Chedie Town; Ramsbottom Utd v Maine Road, Flood-ife Trophy Third round: Atherton Col-leties v Cheberne uenes v Cicheroe.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND AULIANCE: Halesowen Harriers v Willenhall Town; King's Norton Town v Sandwell
Borough; West Midlands Police v VietnesFalld. Horsham Third Division: Clapton v Egham Town: Cheshunt v Croydon Athletic; Connthian Casuals v Aweley. Flackwell Heath v Camberley Town: Tithury v Hornchurch; Ware v Ford Utd. Penna Cop Fourth round: Hitchin Town v Purfleet. Vandamel Trophy Fourth round: Toot-ing & Mitcham v Epsom & Ewell.

71 72: M Weir 08 72 b7 73. Selection other: 287 P-U Johanson (Swe) 68 70 73 76.
RYDER CUP TABLES Leading places: Earseper 1 C Montgomerie (Sco) 5.850pcs; 2 D Curie (N Ire) 3.452; 3 L Westwood (Eng) 3.412; 4 M A Jamener (Sp) 2.910; 5 S Sruver (Ger) 2.650; 6 D Howell (Eng) 2.235; 7 A Cerlo (Ger) 2.148; 8 A Cohart (Sco); 2.136; 9 P Stotand (Swe) 2.122; 10 J Sandelin (Swe) 2.006; 17 R Karlson (Swe) 2.004; 12 B Langer (Ger) 1.756; 13 P McGinley (re) 1.715; 14 J M Olazabal (Sp) 1.550; 15 P Fisike (Swe) 1.54; 15 P Lanner (Sco) 1.462; 17 5 Webster (Eng) 1.39; 18 P Price (Wal) 1.189; 19 J Van de Welde (Fr) 1.179; 20 G Brand Irr (Sco) 1.162; 18p 10 at end of August qualify. Morkines. the captain. cds one wald cards, University of States: 1 D Dunal 967pcs; 21 Whods 851; 3 M O'Meara 737, 4 D Lowe 559; 5 J Furyld States: 1 D Dunal 967pcs; 21 Whods 851; 3 M O'Meara 737, 4 D Lowe 559; 5 J Furyld States: 1 J Husten 399; 12 F Furk 370; 13 B Maylar 347; 141 Suman 335; 4; 15 P Michelon 355; 16 L Janzer 297; 17 S Pate 286; 16 S Stricker 252; (109 J dater USPG A compiciship on 15 August qualify. Ben Cresshow, the coptoin, odds two wild cards).

IFWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premie Division: Diss Town v Stowmarket Town Fakerham Town v Watton Utd, Lowest oft Town v Halstead Town: Wroxham v Woodbridge Town. ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN ung er Miktnam v Epsom ar Ewell.

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division:
Galasborough v Whitby Town (7.45):
Lancaster v Altrincham: Leigh RMI v
Chorley Challenge Cup Fourth round:
Accrington Scanley v Guiseley, Stalybridge Celtic v Burscough. LEAGUE First Division: Billingham Syn-thonia v Crook Town; Dunston Federation Brewery v Balingham Town; Tow Law Yown v Seaham Red Star; West Auckland v Con-

PA OF WALES PREMIER CUP Quarter-flual: Cardiff City v Sugnisea City (7.15). SNURNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Newry v Glentoran. SRICH LEAGUE COCK-COLA League Cop

LEAGUE OF WALPS Gilbert Cup Sessi-fical: Barry Town v Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff. PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Eigin City v Wick Academy. Rothes v Cove Rangers (8.0) PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Derty v Leeds (7.0); Everton v Blackburn (7.0) (ct Widnes RLFC). Taird Division: Halifax v Huli (2.0). AUON INSURANCE COMBINATION

ALAN McLAREN TESTIMONIAL: Rangers y Muddlethrough.

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Bracknell 5 Nottingham 1; Cardiff 2 Manchester 1; London 2 Sheffield 2 (od); Newcastle 3 Avr 2.

the spaniard, Pedro de la Rosa, in this year's Formula One champi-onship. The moves comes after they agreed to release Mika Salo from the remainder of his contract.

RUGBY UNION lamie Mayer, the Scottish interna-

son when they return to the top

TODAY'S

medal for the first time in a decade. He only won one

bronze and one silver.

England wait on 'infirm four'

BY DEREK PRINGLE

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ENGLAND UNVEILED their World Cup squad at Lord's yesterday before revealing that four of the players chosen -Michael Atherton, Graham Thorpe. Neil Fairbrother and Ian Austin - have two weeks to pass a series of fitness tests. In contrast, Australia, one of the tournament favourites, have left out two of their littest players, Greg Blewett and Michael Slater, who are playing some of the best cricket of their

Apart from the haste with which the "infirm four" have to prove their fitness, there were few surprises, and 10 of those involved in the recent one-day series in Australia were included. Inevitably, with such a prestigious event as the World Cup, there were disappointments as well, and Nasser Hussain, one of England's leading scorers in that series, was left

It was, according to the chairman of selectors, David Graveney, one of several tough decisions in shaping a squad that apparently took until Sun-

If many will see Hussain's absence as a glaring omission, the presence of the 21-year-old Andrew Flintoff was a positive factor. Having lost a good deal of weight at the end of the season, Flintoff caught the selectorial eye just at the right time and his explosive batting performances on the A tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa have roused interest.

One thing irks, however, and considering that the four under review - Fairbrother (recurring hamstring trouble), Austin (recent knee operation), Thorpe and Atherton (both dodgy backs) - are the selectors' first March deadline appears ungenerous. The tournament in Sharjah in early April may be a good place to make final tions are so different as to

while conclusions minimal. According to Graveney, the stringent deadline is to avoid the issue being fudged further miss the final Test in Sydney. down the line. "They will be tested by Wayne Morton, the of days. If there are any doubts they won't be included," he said. But while one can see his to go into protective spasm. point, that they have until 2 May This, apparently, is a different to make any final changes, as well as the right to replace a player at any time, makes the haste seem indecent.

For Atherton, the period may prove insufficient anyway. This bring an end to the myriad

FOR

ACC



choice, the insistence on a 15 At Lord's yesterday David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, reveals the names of the 15 England players who hope to lift cricket's World Cup trophy in June

a small problem is causing a large amount of inconvenience, which is what forced him to

The process, which involves nothing more intrusive than an nals transmitted by the nerve which causes the back muscles problem to the chronic spondolytis he has somehow coped with most of his career.

If it sounds gruesome, Atherton is hopeful that it will

week he undergoes work on a cortisone jabs he has received troublesome facet joint in his in recent times. Even so, lower back. According to Mor-expecting Atherton to gambol ogy that causes them; that is, run-saving in the field will be just as important as run-scoring with the bat - may be asking a bit too much of him.

By his own admission, Atherton, who has played just a single one-day international England physio, over a period injection, blocks off the pain sig- in the past year, feels he is in the squad as an option rather than a certainty. This is not the case with either Thorpe or Fairbrother, both of whom would be first choice to occupy the middle-order. Indeed, a thumbs-up from Atherton for the first game on 15 May would significantly improve England's

chances of making the final

great hopes of winning the tro- line for final squads, which is phy for the first time. The why other countries have preparations, but the condition, the severity of Atherton's around like a spring lamb in a biggest obstacle, though, will named 19 players in their symptoms outweigh the pathol- fortnight's time - remember, getting past their group stage, selections. which includes India, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Kenya, from which three

teams qualify. However, the early season conditions - the first match. England v Sri Lanka, is at Lord's on 14 May - should favour Alec Stewart's side, which is probably why the selectors have included Angus Fraser as well as gambling on the likes of Atherton and Austin, who both have exceptional one-day records in Eng-

The announcement of a 15man squad comes a month

As hosts, England will have early - 31 March is the dead-

the cut-off date, the selectors felt that further prevarication was futile. In two weeks' time we should know.

AUSTRALIA Preliminary World Cup squad: S R Waugh (capt), S K Warne, M G Bevan, A C Dale, D W Flering, A C Gilchrist, J N Gillespie, I J Harvey, B P Ju-lian, S G Law, S Lee, D S Lehmann, S C G MacGill, G D McGrath, D R Martyn, R T Ponting, P R Reiffel, M E Waugh, B E Young.

SOUTH AFRICA Preliminary World Cap squad: W J Cronje (capt), 5 M Pollock, G Kirsten, H H Globs, J H Kallis, D J Cul-linan, J N Rhones, L Klusener, N Bojé, M V Boucher, A A Donald, A C Dawson, S Elworthy, D M Benkenszein, D N Crookes, P L Symcox, N Pothas, P R Adams, M Nirol

Cullinan's record, Under-19s' sick day, page 23

Cork in deal to stay at **Derby**

By BRIAN MCKENNA

DOMINIC CORK has signed a new four-year contract at Derbyshire with the first two years guaranteed as captain.

The England all-rounder has settled his differences with the county and a club statement said it was hoped Cork would continue as cap-

tain "for many years". Last month Cork put in a written request to be released from his contract after his demands that two committee members be ousted were rejected. The former chairman Vic Brownett resigned because of the power struggle.

Cork also claimed a "dirty tricks campaign" was being run within the club against him after it was reported he had abused Trevor Bowring, the newly appointed chairman. But Cork said yesterday: "I am happy that all the differences have been sorted out, and we have a structure that we feel can allow me to concentrate all my efforts into leading Derbyshire into a successful future."

A club statement said: "Following discussions with committee members Les Elliott and Trevor Bowring, and latterly with the secretary, previous problems have been resolved with a thorough examination of the way in which cricket is run at the county.

"As a result, a structure has been put in place to ensure that it creates clear and professional management guidelines for the running of firstclass cricket at Derbyshire.

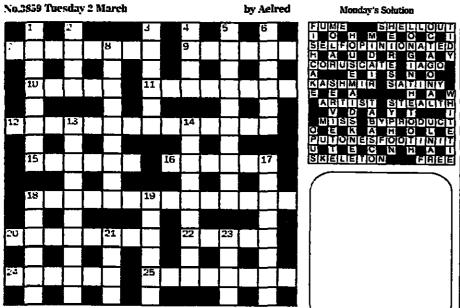
"A cricket committee, composed of a chairman selected to work with the captain, the captain himself, the vice-captain, the second XI captain, plus the new post of cricket manager, will have total authority over professional cricket, within a set budget. The position of cricket manager will be filled shortly."

Meanwhile, Andy Hayhurst, Derbyshire's director of coaching and development, has left the club by mutual

A statement from the club said: "The club would like to thank Andy for his services to Derbyshire and the valuable contribution he has made during his time at the club."

During his playing career Hayhurst captained Somerset and also turned out for

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS Intrude gradually, having enclosed fish (8) Male bias suggested in this church book? (6) 10 Daggers partly revealed 25 Muses perhaps on by strobe lights (5) 11 Wine: the lot is knocked back by trainec soldier (8)

12 Capitalises on changes to include one acquiring 2 in-depth knowledge (14) 15 Formerly concerning lis- 3 tener from abroad (6) 16 Good answer adopted by Denmark's port (6) 18 Frenetic activity behind space on top storey. we hear, leads to 20 One good saint possibly

22 Story of one backing Irish legislators (5) 24 Regret backing work by English for the continent (6) restrictions currently in operation? (8)

A French item split? (8) Support English and Scottish bank (4) Figures house doctor will be found in Rhode Island (6)

They have some resistance to official letters (4) Annoyance at mincepie's crumbling (10) How from whalebone you might get this? (6)

8 Sensuality of mailman is amazing (9)
13 Animal shelter one's about to erect on hill needs an assistant (10)

14 Notice speech which

shows obsession (9) 17 Want to get into castle? You could walk in if water's so (4-4) 18 Clothes right when put on GI? (3-3) 19 It's drunk by one in Scotland and is a healthy drink (6) 21 Cooled down on 1st of

last month? Just the opposite (4) 23 Greek character contributing nothing to Independent Television Authority (4)

Celtic win Farry fight

JIM FARRY'S football career is effectively at an end after the Scottish Football Association chief executive was yesterday suspended over the Jorge Cadete affair. Celtic have claimed for three years that Farry delayed the processing of the transfer of the Portuguese player in time for the Scottish Cup semi-final against Rangers in 1996. Celtic lost the game 2-1, but yesterday they won the war against the most powerful

figure in the Scottish game. The SFA has offered Celtic a written apology as well as agreeing to pay compensation and meet Celtic's legal fees, and Fergus McCann, the Celtic chief executive, yesterday wast-

BY DAVID MCKINNEY part played by Farry. "It has taken Celtic and its supporters three years to receive justice on the issue of the SFA's chief executive Jim Farry's failure to properly register Jorge Cadete. "It is deplorable that a

prominent member club should be disadvantaged in this way when on several occasions the SFA's chief executive had the opportunity to make the correct decision. Mr Farry's failure to properly and timeously register Jorge Cadete leaves the club in no other position than to ask for the office bearers of the SFA to He insisted on Scotland playing ed little time in condemning the recognise that Mr Farry's po- a European Championship cussions with the other clubs in vestigation into his actions.

demonstrates clearly that Mr hold and exercise such power-

R D B Croft (Glamorgan) .

ful authority." The issue recently went to arbitration with the SFA admitting liability before proceedings could finish. Clearly angered by the whole situation, Celtic are demanding the dismissal of Farry, who has held the top job at the SFA since 1990

following 10 years as secre-tary of the Scottish League. In the last nine years he has been frequently criticised for his dictatorial attitude which at times appeared out of tune with the ordinary supporter. rules of football."

funeral of Princess Diana only Farry cannot be allowed to to back down in the face of severe pressure and criticism. Farry's motives for delaying the Cadete transfer remain unclear and although Celtic sup-

ENGLAND SQUAD AVERAGES

BOWLING: ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

porters will interpret his actions as indicating a pro-Rangers stance McCann refused to be drawn on the topic. "I'm not claiming there was malice but there was intent. There was a failure on his part despite the advice of Fifa and Celtic. This is a matter that goes beyond Celtic Football Club, it's a question of somebody who has failed to follow the

Over Christmas, Ronaldo



Farry: Suspended

the Scottish Premier League and his frustration with the powerbrokers at the SFA could prove the motive towards a shift of power towards the new body who would effectively run the élite body of Scottish football. In the meantime Farry has agreed McCann intends to hold dis- to co-operate with an SFA in-

Ronaldo stays behind as Inter depart

SO ALEX FERGUSON will not, By RICHARD WILLIAMS after all, have the world's greatest striker to worry about tomorrow night. Ronaldo himself put an end to the possibility that he would appear in the first leg of the European Cup quarter-final at Old Trafford when he announced last night that he will not be on the flight carrying internazionale's squad

from Milan today for their meeting with Manchester United. Yesterday afternoon the Brazilian went through a final session designed to test his Colour Print, St Albans Road, Wasford

injured knees. After coming off

the practice pitch at La Pineti-

na, Inter's training centre, he spoke to the coach, Mircea Lucescu, the club doctor, Paolo Volpi, and his own physiotherapist, Nilton Petroni. Their conclusion was that he would be better off continuing the programme of work in the gymwhich he has been pursuing worst."

in Milan

Bologna in Serie A on 17 Jan-

"I'm staying here to carry on I do come back it's not once match and then having to miss the next one. Inter's fans must nasium and the swimming pool I am the one who suffers

went home to Brazil for an intensive course of treatment to at Old Trafford. the chronic tendinitis affecting training," Ronaldo said. "It's the both knees, the right in particbest thing to do, so then when ular But on his return he found that he was still playing again a question of playing one through pain, and the decision

once and for all Last week he understand that in this situation left the gymn and returned to training sessions with his teammates, in the hope that he

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would at least be able to take a seat on the substitutes' bench

"Ronaldo doesn't want to speak about a particular date for his return," Inter's spokesman, Sandro Sabatini, said. "But we'll watch his situwas taken to try and get him fit ation, and maybe he can play part of the Coppa Italia match against Parma next Tuesday and then in the Milan derby the following Saturday." And if those matches went well, Sabatini added, he would be ready to line up against Ferguson's men in the second leg, at San Siro on 17 March.

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Cork in deal to stay at Derby

BY BEIAN MCKINNS

DOMINIC CORK has Signed a IN BUT YOUR CONTINUE OF THE re with the first two years ed as captain

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Meanwhile. Andy Haybard. Derbyshire's directe: carching and development. han left the club by matual

A statement from the clair and: "The club would also be thank Andy for his services to Decly shire and the value is rentribution be his trade of tou his time at the citils

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TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Dumb Britannia

BY JOHN SUTHERLAND

widespread use about two years ago. Its origins are obscure but unmistakably American. One of the features that have given it high currency is that you can't easily find a concise English-English equivalent (a small prize to anyone who can). You've known friends", as they used to be called. This doesn't mean what it means all your life, but never until now had a dog isn't smart; just that it can't pass the time of a handy word for it.

excitingly novel, exotic - and possibly barbarous is influenced by a different root, the German! Yiddish (might we not be thought a little "vulgar" if we used i(?). Newspaper leader-writers, with that pomposity only matched by British high court judges and Lord St John of Fawsley would pick it up with rhetorical tongs as "that invaluable American term, dumbing down'."

For a while "dumbing down" continued to be enclosed in quote marks, as something not quite English. That vestigial Podsnappery has recently dropped away and the term now walks naked through our discourse and journalism. It has been domesticated. And, just at the moment, it is ubiquitous. In a year or two, we may predict, "dumbing down" will begin to look hackneyed. Those ahead of the curve (whatever happened to that phrase?) will begin to shun the term. Like "political correctness" (whose day in the sun has passed) it will be introduced almost apologetically. The inverted commas will return, now to sanitise the user against the term's staleness. Possibly, like "PC", it

will for a while be abbreviated to initials. Finally it will drop out of sight, recorded only in the graveyard of Oxford's faithful dictionaries of slang as "informal; American; current in the late 1990s; now obsolete". A few years ago, Private Eye had a whole feature that ran for the best part of a year, as I recall, citing ripe examples of the word situation" (as in "what we have here is a sexual harassment situation"). That cant term came and went. Ou sont les mots d'antan?

"Dumbing down" is not just an American loan word - something that we, as custodians of the English language, have borrowed. It is an alien compound that has colonised a small part of our master dialect, and has driven out a useful item of our own national lexicon in the process. This can be demonstrated by looking at the different national etymologies of the word "dumb". In English-English, from its Anglo Saxon origins, "dumb" denotes

he term "dumbing down" came into "destitute of the faculty of speech" - or, by extension, "silent". Thus, in Shakespeare, Cordelia is "dumb" in the sense of not speaking ("I cannot heave my heart into my mouth"). Words, that is, fail her. Intelligence, or lack of it, does not come into it.

In English-English the term has traditionally been applied non-pejoratively to animals - "our dumb day with its owner. The term has had an entirely Initially the term was handled as something different character in American-English. There it "dumm", meaning "stupid", as in "Dummkop Thus, until a few years ago, the word "dummy" had entirely different meanings in Britain and in the US. Here it was a lump of rubber that you stuck into a baby's mouth to shut it up. Over there "dummy" meant someone who was as thick as two short planks. In recent years, the traditional English application has become infected by its American usage. So much so that the 1998 edition of the New Oxford Dictionary of English recommends that "dumb" should not be used to denote "incapable of speech". Like the luckless word "niggardly", it has become, accidentally, highly offensive - even to English ears. You have now to say "deaf and speaking-impaired". We have, as I say, lost a word.

And, of course, we have gained a phrase. The term "dumbing down", as we have taken it over from America, is a "pejorative". That is to say, it carries strong negative associations. But what it indicates ("simplification") is not in every social context, a bad thing. In the world of electronics for instance. where "dumbing down" is glossed as "user-friendliness", it is a very good thing. And yet, as most of us sitting at our keyboards know, there is nothing so dumb (American usage) as your average computer-user. The first question those invaluable help-line operators ask is: "Have you checked that your machine is plugged in?" "Er... no (gulp)." Com-

puters make Forrest Gumps of us all. In other contexts and discourses, "dumbing down" is seen as something highly desirable. There is, for example, a citizens' movement to reform legal jargon and make it comprehensible to the lay population. Doubtless elderly barristers at the Inns of Court mutter over their port about this as dumbing down the law. The rest of us see it as progress.

Dumbing down" is a term that has been aggressively mobilised in two controversial contexts: education and the "culture wars". There it aligns

Culture is at an end. The Philistines are at the gates. The kids are watching cartoons. In a major series on the state of cultural Britain, we set out to discover whether we have really 'dumbed down', whatever that means

INSIDE

John Walsh on high culture – why does art have to be so difficult?

itself with the perennial pessimistic tendency. justification for this, confirmed by the Christian in-Children are always less educated than their elders. This complaint could be found 50 years ago in Leavisite jeremiads about the irresistible rise of middleand low-brow taste. It underlies the "Johnny can't read" panics in America in the Fifties and the British "Black Papers" of the Sixties.

The young always seem like know-nothings and example, could not get into university without Latin and two modern languages. I was force-fed the King James Bible every school day. Not surprisingly, school-leavers whom I interview for university entrance who don't know ma plume from ma tante or can't recognise the joke in Monty Python's "Blessed are the cheesemakers" may strike me as pig-ignorant. But there is much that they know that music and dancing, so as to replace them with a I don't. Put them in front of a computer monitor and repetitious noise." this will often become evident. Think of the generic "computer whiz". What do you see in your mind's eye? A greybeard or a wunderkind?

Secondly, it is not just that the young know different things; they know things differently. For the part of their humanities "requisite") to near-genius science students at the California Institute of Technology. One thing that perplexed me was that these precocious big-brains didn't seem able to remember literary detail: "That guy in that play," they would mumble: "Hamlet!" I'd snarl through gritted teeth. The reason, I worked out, was that they didn't see a reason to store such information, because they always knew where to retrieve it when needed.

My education, like that of most of my generation, was based on trained memory. I took all the important exams in my life with the necessary knowledge stored in my head. Today's students, the brightest of them, reserve their memory banks for knowing not things themselves but where to find those things. Not surprisingly they seem "dumb" to me. I seem a dinosaur to them.

In the culture wars, the "dumbing-down" issue is more complex. It's complicated by the polemical argument that dumb is good - that is, as it is manifested in childish innocence or sanctity. St Francis conversing with his animals as equals, Wordsworth's "idiot child" (who knows more than social and cultural life. It will look at education, high his parents), Dostoevsky's Holy Fool, and Forrest art, popular culture and television and will attempt Gump - all assert the belief that brains aren't everything. There is, of course, a strong and nostalgic we use the DD words.

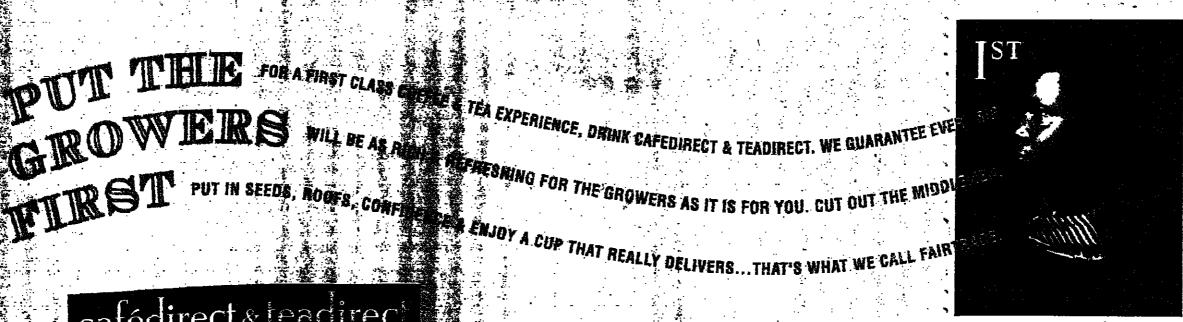
junction that unless we become as little children we shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. None the less, the majority opinion is that smart is better. Is our culture, driven by the remorseless pursuit of sales and audience ratings, lobotomising us? Roger Scruton thinks so, and cites the popular music business ("Yoofanasia", as he calls it) as evphilistines to their elders. There is no mystery about idence. As Scruton argues, in his An Intelligent Perthis. The generations know different things. I, for son's Guide to Modern Culture: "Pop culture [which is, of course, no culture] is an attempt to provide easy-going forms of social cohesion, without the costly rites of passage that bring moral and emotional knowledge. It... has demoted the aesthetic object, and elevated the advert in its place; it has replaced imagination by fantasy and feeling by kitsch; and it has destroyed the old forms of

There is an old-codger reflex in any reader over 30 that leads us to agree. But, if you look at Scruton's cited arguments, you realise that he hasn't really listened to what he dismisses (on the circularly prejudicial grounds that it isn't worth listenlast 15 years I have taught English literature (as ing to). He is hard put to come up with five pop groups (grotesquely putting Michael Jackson and Oasis cheek by jowl). David Blunkett, on his part, thinks that TV cartoons are programmatically dumbing down our children. People think our diet of news and entertainment is less "demanding" than it used to be. Blunkett is wrong, I think. Has there ever been a wittier cartoon series than The Simpsons? It is true that the average adventure series, bought as a package from America, is nowhere near as good. But neither were B-movies in the Forties. from which we extract prime examples of film noir.

There is, I think, considerable hope in the cultural scene. L as a teacher of literature, am heartened by the fact that there are now more "classic" titles in print than at any period in British cultural history. A culture in which Jane Austen (in film, TV and print) is a best-seller, where Shakespeare in Love is packing cinemas, and where Noel's House

Party dies for lack of viewers, can't be all that dumb. Over the coming days, the Dumb Britannia series will examine the ways in which "dumbing down" has been held to have had an impact on our to draw conclusions as to what we really mean when

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Smear on police

Sir: The Lawrence inquiry report is a biased, politicised smear of the police. The report's incompetence over releasing names and addresses of witnesses is greater and less understandable than the police errors in their investigation of the dreadful murder.

There is no doubt that there are racists among the police: I have met one myself. This must not be tolerated. But the report showed little evidence that racism - rather than simple human error - was the source of police failings in the murder investigation. It showed even less evidence of widespread racism, let alone "institutional".

There was "institutional racism" in Nazi Germany, South Africa, and the American South, but the only institutional racism - properly defined - in the British police is the racial quotas the Government is proposing to introduce. In addition to being racist, these quotas will smear successful black officers as "quota officers" who could not make it on their own.

To define as "racist" any incident that any observer, no matter how irrational or biased considers to be racist will severely damage race relations. To suggest that privately expressed views should be prosecutable smacks of Stalinism.

The report should be put where it belongs—in the bin. WILLIAM MacDOUGALL Conservative Councillor Haringey Council London N22

Sir. The Lawrence inquiry has shown what the Conservatives they have become - an opposition with no conception of its role.

They have set themselves up as a little party-political guerrilla band whose chosen sport seems to be hunting the scalps of as many ministers as they can, regardless of the underlying issue. This time, they have decided to use the error of judgement by the Lawrence inquiry team in publishing the names of police informants to add Jack Straw to their collection.

Do they think that making political capital out of what should be a bipartisan issue, the battle against racism in our public institutions, will earn them the gratitude of the victims of this error, or of the Lawrence family or of the British public? Do they imagine that they are performing a useful function in attempting to crucify a minister who had the integrity, which they lacked, to set up this inquiry, because he had the effrontery to go on a weekend break with his family? ALAN MURRAY Dorking, Surrey

Jack Straw over the published names of informants in the report is asinine. It implies that the Home Office should have been allowed to scrutinise, well in advance of its public appearance, an independent inquiry report and been given powers to query parts of it, and to request changes, in time for correction prior to publication. That would have rendered the label "independent" redundant. The whole idea is ludicrous. PAUL WALTER Newbury. Berkshire

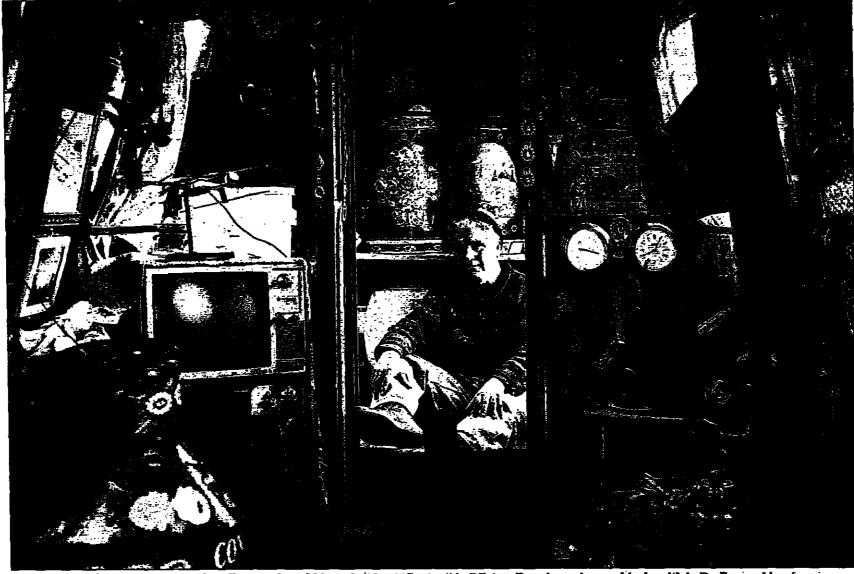
Sir. We are all responsible for creating a society where a young man can be murdered because he is black with nothing done. It is very easy to say that one is "against racism", but the fact that it even needs to be said is revealing.

Rather than conveniently pointing the finger at other people -"those racists" – we need to look closer to home. We must not forget that "racist gangs" are made up of people. They are not an alien force down for a day trip from Mars. They are our sons, our daughters, our mothers and fathers, our colleagues. They are a part of us and we must all bear some responsibility for their actions. LAÙRA SMITH

Sir. It is claimed that the police merely reflect the views of society

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Canals of Birmingham No 2: Dennis Fellows on board his 60-foot boat 'Content' in Bilston. Dennis works as a blacksmith in Dudley, and is a journeyman of the Waterways Craft Guild

it? Farm gate prices have

collapsed for most products in the

last 18 months. Retail prices are all

A very large proportion of the

eat is the processing, packing and retailing. A loaf of bread costing £1

but unchanged. How can this be?.

retail price for much of what we

will have no more than 10p of

wheat in it. The price of wheat

The price of food is not

might halve, but bread will come

down by a maximum of 5 per cent.

determined by cost, but by what

cheaner in real terms than it has

eyer been; we now spend 11 per

cent of our disposable income on

the end of the Second World War.

The food retailing sector now has

true competition (which might

push down prices) less possible.

reform the CAP but please don't

offer cheaper food as one.

St Nicholas Court Farms

Sir. The US flexes its muscles

because the state and federal

governments seem unwilling or

by big business. The giant

abroad, but is humiliated at home

redwoods of California will be felled

NICHOLAS TAPP

Birchington, Kent

Feeble US

very high barriers to entry, making

There are all sorts of reasons to

food, compared with 33 per cent at

the market will stand. Food is

at large. The police undergo a selection procedure to assess their suitability for the needs of the force. They also undergo initial and ongoing training so that they know the requirements of the job they do, and they are subject to a disciplinary code. This places policemen in a different category from the rest of us. Police also are granted privileges not available to the population at large, and of course, they are public servants. r j granger Ashford, Middlesex

Ulster's guns

Sir: The Conservatives' criticism of Sir: As the 10 March deadline approaches for the setting up of the new executive in Northern Ireland, wonder how long the Government is prepared to wait while David Trimble reinterprets the section on decommissioning in the Good Friday agreement to bolster hardline Unionist intransigence.

Why is he not also addressing the issue consistently ignored by the British media - the thousands of licensed weapons in the homes and gun clubs of his own community? As Albert Reynolds recently remarked: "The North is awash with weapons."

It is hypocrisy to demand the decommissioning of IRA weapons when according to RUC figures in 1997 there were 138,727 legally held guns in that province - the majority in Unionist cupboards - for which 83,500 firearms certificates have been issued, many for several guns

held by one person. Equally worrying was Mo Mowlam's written reply to a parliamentary question last year referring to the handgun ban in Britain after Dunblane: "After much thought, I am not persuaded of the need to prohibit the possession and use of target handguns in Northern Ireland. I realise that my decision may disappoint some people who feel strongly, as I do, about firearms control and safeguarding the

If there is to be any future agreement on decommissioning, common sense dictates that the

12,771 legally held handguns in Northern Ireland should be the first weapons to be decommissioned, to comply with

the legislation applicable to the rest of the UK. Perhaps then the owners of the 111,014 shotguns and airguns, 13,736 smallbore rißes, 326 full-bore rifles and 880 "miscellaneous" weapons could be induced to surrender them.

I suggest as a matter of urgency Mo Mowlam's office meet with the gun clubs of the Orange Order, the Black Preceptory and the Apprentice Boys to put these points so as to gain at least some credibility as a persuader.

It is illogical to require republicans to hand over their weapons while their Unionist neighbours a few streets across town are permitted to retain their massive private licensed armouries, not to mention the thousands of unlicensed weapons in the hands of Protestant paramilitaries. MOYA St LEGER

Cheap food mantra

Sir: The Independent falls into line with the oft-repeated mantra that reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and reduced farm subsidies will deliver us the benefit of cheaper food (leading article, 22 February). Why should

Sir: In a world in which the diet

of many people is governed by

actually starving, I found "The

Review, 27 February) positively

what they can afford, and,

indeed, in which many are

dinner party" (Weekend

Todmorden, West Yorkshire

Sir: Mary Dejevsky's rant

24 February) about the

("Mutant meat and two veg".

crudeness of the American

the kettle black. If she can't

palate has to be the pot calling

nauseating. SHEILA PATTINSON

IN BRIEF

find "sophistication in food and drink in most American cities", she's not getting out of her botel room enough. And if she truly believes that most Americans confuse "French dressing" with French cuisine. one must wonder how contemptuous she feels about her countrymen who believe they are eating at Mexican restaurants in these parts. PETER HAAS

Sir: One of the least attractive aspects of your generally excellent newspaper is its antimonarchism. At least you should play fair. The headline 'Queen tried to breach wage laws" (26 February) is belied by the article, which refers to the Deputy Ranger and the Crown Estate management. That management is in the hands of the Crown Estate Commissioners: the revenue goes to the public account and not to Her Majesty. PETER BEAZLEY Langford Budville, Somerset

unable to acquire them by accused of immigration fraud to compulsory purchase from the stave off criticism is untrue. It took thugs at the Pacific Lumber steps the very same day it obtained the evidence needed from the Company (report, 1 March). Monsanto abuses the potential of Legal Aid Board. Our frustration with the issue of genetic science by breeding

insecticide-resistant or sterile immigration abuse has been the versions of staple crops and is lack of information to act on and the powers to act. We continue to rewarded by American press the Government for these government support in enforcing its monstrosities on Europe and the extra powers so we can match our Third World. Is it any wonder that commitment to tackling fraud with the USA's claim to international effective action. MICHAEL MATHEWS moral authority is so hard for the rest of the world to take seriously? President

The Law Society

Depressed society

Sir: As a doctor, I was prepared for

could slot a family in just like that.

As a mother of three who has

Deborah Orr's ideas (Comment, 24

February) about the breakdown of

families and new pressures on both sexes since the sexual revolution

as a significant cause of depression.

I also believe that full-time

parenting is so undervalued by

cannot hope to feel worthwhile or

society that anybody doing it

How imprepared I was.

suffered from postnatal

depression, I would echo all

a professional career and thought I

Loudon-WC2

Errant lawyers

MEREDITH OAKES

London SW16

Sir: The article "Complaints swamp the Law Society" (24 February) seems to be turning reality on its head. The Law Society has always taken the issue of complaints against solicitors

very seriously. Over the past few years we have invested considerably, for example £5m on a sophisticated computer system, to improve how complaints are dealt with to ensure that solicitors' clients do receive a fair deal. Indeed the solicitors' profession offers the broadest and fullest safeguards to

clients of any profession. To suggest the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors closed down the two solicitors' firms

However, I disagree with her view on drug treatment. I believe I am recovering thanks to a combination of antidepressants. counselling and reprioritising my life. There are many causes of depression: biochemical. psychological and social. There are many causes of most illnesses. We all know stressful events can cause angina attacks. That doesn't mean ferers should keen away from their anti-anginal spray. It would be wonderful if we could

today.

successful.

take away the causes of depression in society but that seems unrealistic. So, surely the answer is to treat it in the best ways we understand. Antidepressants work -why not use them? Dr JOANNA PRICE Newcostle upon Tyne

Uninformed consent

Sir: The basis upon which people give consent for the removal of their organs is that they are dead before those organs are removed. To the vast majority, death implies loss of hope for recovery of any sense or feeling as well as cessation of circulation and all brain function. From the recent correspondence it appears that these are, in fact, not the criteria used in this country.

. . 2 . . .

Furthermore, it would appear from the letter from Dr Urquhart (25 February), that the disembowelment of the donor is carried out before and not after the cessation of ventilation.

The only true consent is informed consent; the majority of those carrying donor cards are not informed that they will be pink and warm and potentially sentient whilst their vital organs are being removed. Were they to be so informed then it is likely that a large number of those donor cards would follow mine into the waste bin.

To contend that consent should be assumed without an explicit and immediately available statement to the contrary is a tacit acceptance that truly informed consent would be rare indeed. ROGER BLASSBERG St Alban's, Hertfordshire

Sir: In California, which renews driving licences every four years, one is given the option upon renewal to designate oneself as an organ donor (letters, 1 March). This is indicated on the licence by a small pink dot sticker. In the event of an accident it is easy for an official to see that donor permission has already been given, and that the organs may be removed. Both my husband and I have pink dots on our licences. JUDITH NELSON London WC1

Thames in peril

Sir: It is not only Twickenham riverside which deserves celebrity support (letter, 22 February); Kew needs it too.

For ten years we have been fighting a scheme for the Kew riverside site between the Public Record Office and the river Thames. As ever, it is almost entirely for gated "huxury" flats, in six blocks at right angles to the PRO (a brutal edifice itself) and the tow path, stepping down from six to four storeys high.

The Thames in London needs a continuous protection zone along its whole length on both sides, wide enough to encompass those few remaining undeveloped sites. which are under threat of massive over-development and appalling "architecture". The public should have the right to control whatever impacts on land in the public CHRISTOPHER KNIGHT

Landon W4

Age of pop classics

Sir: I get very annoyed when my teenage children accuse me of trying to be cool when I buy the latest album by, say, Faithless (Philip Hensher, 26 February). What they find so difficult to appreciate is that I do genuinely enjoy quite a lot of contemporary music (What I find difficult is that fairly often my purchases disappear into their rooms.)

I do not remember ever being enamoured of my parents' favourite music. Jim Reeves was never my type of thing. However, I do still enjoy playing my old Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin albums. When two survivors of Led Zeppelin played on television recently, my children were captivated.

Popular music in our parents' time was awful, ours was good enough to be enjoyed by our children and today's music is a mixture of so many ideas that it cannot fail to impress someone and I comfort myself with the knowledge that John Peel is older than me! ANNETTE MILNES (aged 45⁴4)

Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire

The cunning man in the disintegrating shorts

A MOST extraordinary case is going on in the High Court at the moment, in which a rugby player is being prosecuted for misrepresentation, unlawful trading, and 20 other similar charges - and all because he invented a new kind of rugby shirt. But perhaps a brief extract from the trial will enlighten you.

Counsel: Now, Mr Pratt, you are a professional rugby player, are you not? Pratt: I am.

vented a new kind of rugby shirt? Pratt: I believe that too. Counsel: Could you give the court a brief description of your revolutionary new rugby shirt? Pratt: Certainly You are probably well aware that rugby is the only game in which a player can be

Counsel: I believe you have in-

legally held on to by his clothing. In Pratt: I have. It has made me cricket or football, to grasp a player by his shirt and hold him would be viciously against the rules. In tennis it is unheard of I believe the only other contact games in which you are encouraged to hold on to the enemy are derivatives of rugby like American football.

But in rugby it is quite common to tackle a man by holding his clothing rather than getting him cleanly round the legs. Well, it occurred to me that if you invented a shirt which was just several panels of cloth held together by Velcro, then whenever you were tackled by the shirt, the piece of shirt your opponent was holding would come away in his hands and you would just run on down the field.

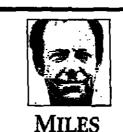
Counsel: And you have produced such a shirt?

much more difficult to hold on to. Indeed, I have scored many tries since I first used this shirt. Counsel: And lost many items of clothing as well, no doubt? Pratt: After a while, the pitch certainly does become strewn with bits of your shirt. And of course the opposition doesn't particularly like

coming away with empty hands after trying to tackle you, so they tend not to return the bit of shirt. In fact, they tend to drop it on the ground and jump up and down on it in rage. Counsel: Does the same apply to your shorts?

tachable pieces held on by Velcro?

Pratt: Do people jump up and down on my shorts in rage? Counsel: No. I mean, have you also devised a pair of shorts made of de-



KINGTON 'The spirit of the

game of rugby is to evade capture by any means possible

Pratt: I have. I haven't tried them in public as I am not sure whether a man with pieces of his shorts torn spirit of the game of rugby is to

away might not be prosecuted for offending public decency. Counsel: But a man wearing no shirt is quite decent? Pratt: Oh, yes. In some sports it is even against the law to wear a shirt, and you are forced to go shirtless.

Pratt: Swimming. Counsel: Hmm... Name another. Pratt: Boxing Judge: I think he's got you there, old boy. I'd switch the line of attack,

Counsel: Name one.

if I were you. Counsel: Very good, my Lord. Now, Mr Pratt, you are aware that this new shirt of yours is considered unsporting by other players?

Pratt: Unsporting? In what sense? Counsel: In the sense that it is against the spirit of the game. Pratt: That is absolutely not so. The

evade capture by any means possible. That is why you are allowed to push your hand in the enemy's face to fend him off. That is why you struggle as hard as possible to loosen his grip, or indeed run along with high-kicking knees to make tackling more difficult. My shirt is entirely in the spirit of the game. Judge: I think he's got you again, old boy. Try another tack. Go up the blind side.

Counsel:Yes, my Lord... How do you mean, up the blind side? Judge: Well, ask him a question he's not expecting. Counsel: Yes, my Lord... Like what, my Lord?

Judge: Oh, for heaven's sake! Well, ask him if it had occurred to him that martial arts like ju-jitsu depend entirely on clothes being grasped? Counsel: I like it! Tell me, Mr

Pratt, has it occurred to you that in some sports, like ju-jitsu, the grasping of garments is the very essence of the sport?

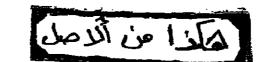
Counsel: Can you imagine what it would be like if sumo wrestlers had loin cloths attached only by Velcro and lost their clothing bit by bit during a bout? Would the sight not be revolting?

Pratt: The sight of sumo wrestlers is revolting enough already, even when they have their loins clothed Judge: I think he's got you there again, George!

Prait: Yes, my Lord. Any other questions you suggest I might ask Judge: Can't think of any. Let's ad-

journ and think about it.

The case continues.



*THE INDEPENDENT

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Please calm down and concentrate on the real issues

A LEADING Tory grandee has suggested that this newspaper should hand back the awards it was given last week because it has failed to cover the furore about the Home Secretary's weekend break in France. This pathetic outburst is a depressing reminder of just how infantile polities in this country has become. So is Norman Fowler's call for Jack Straw to "consider his position", especially since he had earlier denied that there was anything wrong with Mr Straw's trip.

Sir Norman has made himself look silly, which is all the more surprising for such a normally shrewd politician. He has allowed Labour to counter-attack with the allegation that the Conservatives are a sloppy and amateur opposition - which they certainly appear to be, given their disarray over Europe, and the invisible men and women who have been awarded most of the shadow portfolios.

Others have behaved in just as silly a manner. A press frenzy has developed, and not just in the tabloid newspapers. One newspaper has referred to Mr Straw "sneaking" back into Britain; another offered rewards to find him. Yet another seemed to think that Mr Straw had jetted off to the type of sunshine holiday that many ordinary citizens cannot afford, rather than a prearranged budget break in cloudy Nice, which is at present basking in temperatures of only 59 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ministers don't deserve more sympathy than executives in other walks of life. But they don't deserve less. They work long hours for relatively little pay compared with the private sector. They carry heavy responsibilities, with their every move subject to intense scrutiny. Never was this more true than during Mr Straw's last week at work, when he had to deal with the explosive issue of racism and the police. He deserved a holiday after that. Ideally, perhaps, he should have been present in the debate over the release of witnesses' names in the Lawrence report, but in his absence Paul Boateng is a competent minister, fully able to apologise on behalf of the Home Office for mistakes in the report. What is the point of ministers of state, if they are not able to deputise for their superiors?

We are tempted to agree with the Prime Minister's spokesman, Alastair Campbell, and his recent complaints about the "dumbing down" of national political debate. Unable to focus for more than one or two days on the real policy details of any story, opposition politicians and newspapers seem to have got their comment ideas stuck in a groove, continually expressing outrage and calling for resignations.

There are understandable reasons for this, including the arrogant obduracy of ministers in the last government, who seemed to be temperamentally unable to resign even when their policies were utterly discredited.



But the desire to inflict harm at any cost to figures in public life is now becoming unhealthy. There are a number of recent examples of this. Robin Cook's private life has elicited more attention than the issue of Sierra Leone, which is a matter of real public concern rather than prurient gossip. The sexual orientation of Nick Brown, the agriculture minister, was awarded more yards of newsprint than were his farming policies. Some people seemed to think that the main issue raised by the Lawrence report was the future of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, rather than the problems of racism and police accountability.

The laudable objective of holding ministers to account, and making sure they cannot get away with their mistakes, has been forgotten in a mèlée that has now become so absurd that it would be laughable if it were not so depressing. Opposition politicians, and over-excited journalists, should take note: calm down, concentrate on real issues, and leave ministers' private lives alone.

Peace by diplomacy is Israel's best strategy

ISRAELS LATEST attacks on southern Lebanon were foreseeable: every round of killings in this painful saga is followed by a reprisal, each as depressing as the last. Unfortunately for Israel, such acts of revenge are likely to prove as counter-productive as they were predictable.

Israel has the right to defend herself: she is in Lebanon because of the attacks originally of the Palestinians and then of the Iranian-financed Hizbollah militia on civilian targets across the border. In the run-up to an election it was inevitable that any Israeli government would hit back following the bomb attack that killed Brigadier General Erez Gerstein, the highest-ranked Israeli officer to be killed in Lebanon since the self-declared "security zone" was imposed in 1982. And it is worth remembering that Israel a peace. He should prove it with deeds, as well as words.

is not the only villain of the piece, for Syria continues to occupy most of Lebanon long after the security situation her initial excuse for intervention – has stabilised.

But to recognise all this is not to excuse Israel's great mistake: to think that security can be attained by military victory, rather than through true peace on her borders. Yes, Syria should withdraw from Lebanon; but no one really believes that will happen without Israel making a similar gesture, and without further progress being made on the vexed issue of the Golan Heights.

Unless Israeli politicians want to continue their own little Vietnam, and watch domestic and international support for their operations in Lebanon ebb away, they should seize the opportunity of political change in the Middle East, and open negotiations for withdrawal with the Lebanese government. The Oslo agreement with the PLO seemed unpalatable at the time but held out similar rewards: peace with security. Benjamin Netanyahu says that his aim is such

The man who said I had a funny name is not, of course, a racist

THE YOUNG man next door is letting his flat. For some complicated reason this led his father, a retired man from Guildford, to contact us concerning insurance. When he phoned he spoke to my partner, who had to give him both our surnames. "Aaronovitch?" he immediately queried. "I'm surprised he hasn't changed his name." My part-ner was taken aback. "What did he mean?" she asked me later.

strange assertion? Maybe Mr Guildford had had many Jewish friends who, fearing prejudice, anglicised their surnames - and so he was merely a bit surprised at my family's courage. Possibly, but I don't think so. No. I think it more likely that he just assumed that Jews generally changed their names so that they could assimilate in public, while retaining their separateness in private. It was what the conversos (Jews who converted to Christianity) did in Spain during the Middle Ages, which was why the Inquisition burned so many of them. With us crafty (though brilliant) Levantines such deception is something of a habit.

We had never met, never spoken, never corresponded. Mr Guildford and L And yet he presumed it perfectly receptable to speak like this to my partner. And I suddenly smelled the rancid whiff of the golf club committee: "Of course, chairman," says the membership secretary, "his name is really Goldfarb. He changed it to Gordon." With one impertinent observation. Mr Guildford made me feel like an interloper in my own bloody house. theme by something else.

He didn't mean to, of course - they rarely do, not even the big ones. In Simon Heffer's exceptional biography of Enoch Powell, Like The Roman, Heffer allows that, after Powell's 1968 Birmingham speech, many black communities were "pitched intoterror". But that, says Heffer, "was certainly not Powell's intention." Later Margaret Thatcher told Heffer that Powell was, in her opinion, "not Yes, what did he mean? What were the assumptions that underlay his believed Powell was a racist. A TV trial of Powell last year produced a clear acquittal on the charge of racism.

Yet here, cited by Heffer, is Powell on his return from a visit to the US in 1967, just as Martin Luther King reached his zenith. "Integration of races of totally disparate origins and culture," wrote Powell, "is one of the great myths of our time. It has never worked through history." Except, of course, when it has. And here again is Powell in the same year, writing to Edward Heath. In this letter the aspect of race relations that bothers the non-racist Powell is "not discrimination by white against coloured, but of insolence by coloured towards white". My but what a telling word that "insolence" is! Children are insolent towards adults, privates are insolent towards captains, and "coloureds" are insolent towards whites. Yet Maggie

As are they all honourable men. In the wake of the Macpherson report, with its definition of institutionalised racism and uncomfortable conclusions, sympathy for the Lawrences has been replaced as the dominant



DAVID AARONOVITCH

I'm amazed by the number of intelligent people who fail to grasp that you can be a racist without knowing it

Let two letters in yesterday's press stand for all. CR Howe from Hambledon in Hampshire (who has lived abroad and respects the traditions of others) wrote that: "It is a tragedy that. in this country, the politically correct left-wing lobby is bent on making native, white Britons ashamed of our history and Christian culture on the pretext of not causing offence to ethnic minorities."

And Ann M Johnston from Dunstable asked: "Can we be sure that the vandalism of the Stephen Lawrence says that he was an honourable man. memorial was the work of a white racist? Might it not have been someone from one or the other ethnic minority out to cause further problems for the police?" The Chinese perhaps. Or maybe a cop-hating Vanuatuan.

"nigger" and deface memorials (unless, of course, the fiendishly clever Somalis get there first). Consequently the ordinary non-racists will accept no definition of racism that suits them. The cap never, ever fits. Which is why they and their mouthpieces might behave more admirably and have been so offended by the recom- more fairly. In some cases this will mendations and definitions in the Macpherson report.

There are some hostages to fortune in there. Critics of the report have zoomed in on some of the recommendations that changes in the law be reviewed, in particular concerning racism in private and the exceptional application of double jeopardy. I would just remind readers that Macpherson is very tentative here, suggesting only "that consideration should be given" to this, to that and

to the other. But the real quarry is Sir William's definition of racism. For some reason evokes anger and denial among Britons of all classes and outlooks. Racism is held to be "conduct or words or practices which advantage or disadvantage people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin. In its a whole lot better more subtle form it is as damaging as Mr Guildford, I reiterate, didn't more subtie form it is as damaging as in its overt form."

To get to this conclusion Macpherson asked himself what psychology could have given rise to the treatment experienced by Duwayne Brooks and the Lawrences. In other words, he took the effects and worked backwards, rather than beginning and an absence of an active desire to harm my son has not just been stabbed in

wear pointy hats and sheets and say people are indeed harmed by your actions and attitudes.

So, can you be a racist without knowing it? Yes. Of course. It doesn't make you a member of the Ku Klux Klan, or even a bad person. But it does mean that, with a bit of thought, you make little life-or-death difference, but in, say, the police force it is crucial. It is certainly something to think about if you are inclined to shower journalistic awards on the likes of Richard Litticiohn and Gary Bushell, or to excuse Bernard Manning.

This week I have been astonished by the number of intelligent folk who cannot grasp this, or who see it as a first move towards planting microchip monitors in their heads. True, it is a more sophisticated argument than the one we had back in the late Sixties. I believe that we can cope with the complexity precisely because we have progressed since then, and we are a more tolerant nation. However, we still have work to do. In Eltham, in 1993, there was a lynching and the sheriff didn't catch the killers, and we can do

know the first thing about me. But the second he heard my name a picture began to assemble itself in his brain; the foreign moniker triggered an assumption. It made me uncomfortable, but it doesn't matter too much. That's because (a) I don't wear my name on a placard everywhere I ending with intent. He concluded that go; (b) he's not a policeman; and (c) They are pretty typical. And they an absence of an active desire to harm my son has not just been stabbed in are not, of course, racists. Racists people is not an absolution when the heart while waiting for the bus.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We do have obligations to our families, even if we are politicians." Jack Straw, Home Secretary

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Never to talk about oneself is a very refined form of hypocrisy." Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher

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Mr Obasanjo's rule will end the military's political role. This is unlikely. Mr Obasanjo, president from 1976 to 1979, is the TI IS important to commend only military ruler to leave office voluntarily. Yet he is still close to the armed forces. Reversing Delta poverty is a task that may be hindered by his links to the armed forces. To have any success in tackling Nigeria's daunting problems.

MANY NIGERIANS hope that in a military transition, but the first stage of full civilian rule. The New York Times, US

Abubakar for driving towards his promise of a swift transition to civil democracy. This commendation is proper, given the red herring regarding the unpopularity of the decision in military circles. It is imperative that the civil populace, espe-Mr Obasanio must make his cially those who have now gotgovernment not the last stage ten themselves elected into MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD World comment on the weekend's presidential elections in Nigeria

leadership, to facilitate the per- ernment must take off with manent removal of the military that assignment. from partisan politics, as we Post Express, Nigeria begin to pursue the business of national recovery and regen- THE CRIPPLING corruption itary, after 30 years in power,

eration. This in-coming gov- and crime synonymous with must surely know that no

Nigeria will not be easy to eradicate. The marginalisation of the southern tribes by northern rule, and the economic backwardness of the north, are not issues that a President can decree away. They require committed and honest hard work by all Nigerians. There is a need to send a strong message that there will be a day of reckoning for those who turn the gun on their own. The mil-

elected government can be as incompetent as it has been in governing the nation. The Nation, Kenya

THE ABUBAKAR transition programme has travelled far. and the climax of the electoral process, the presidential election, will enable Nigeria to enter the next millennium free and democratic, with the will of the people established as Daily Graphic, Ghana

كذا من ألاصل

JOHNNY DEPP is set to star

1995. The exiled director was

three years ago after John

and Sean Penn, Robert de

commitments preventing

them stepping before his

with the Los Angeles District

charges dropped dating from

accused of having sex with a

paedophilia in the Nineties

occupying the position that

Communism did in the Fifties

as the zeitgeist's pariah vice,

sources say the Polish-born

auteur has been advised not

CHARLES KENNEDY is not

universally popular among

his party's elder statesmen.

Skye at the age of 23, David

Owen responded: "Who? Where?" But delve into

Owen's memoirs and you'll

discover that Roy Jenkins thought Kennedy was one of

a group of SDP types who

were "mesmerised" by the

vampiric Owen, while Bob Maclennan described the

motion particularly close to

Bob's heart. But Kennedy,

Harvey, Hughes and other

leadership contenders may

rest assured that Owen

should be distracted from

meddling in the contest by

his new fondness for some

BEVERLEY HILLS citizens

will vote this spring on an

merchandise with labels

stating: "This product is

breaking..." Sometime

London resident Diana

Ross (pictured) is

Georgia born belle

Kim Basinger the

Hollywood cynic

says that the plan is

academic anyway: "I

don't think a stupid

label's going to

difference. In this

town, women get

minks get minks."

PARLIAMENTARIANS

CONCERNED about

GM foods are being

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served mixed

messages by the

July, he told his

Commons Catering

Committee Chairman

Dennis Turner MP. In

make any

antis. One

made with fur from animals

that may have been killed by

electrocution, gassing, neck-

ordinance that would compel

young Scot as a "Judas"

after voting against a

putative Lib Dem

daft euro-bashing.

local furriers to tag

Politicos know that when

the precocious Kennedy first won Ross Cromarty &

cameras. Paris-based

Attorney's office to have

an incident more than 20

years ago when he was

13-year-old girl. With

to hold his breath.

Niro and Al Pacino all

Travolta stormed off the set-

in the supernatural thriller

The Ninth Gate, Roman

Polanski's first film since

will fe

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PANDORA

Lewes counterpart Norman Baker that no frankenfoods would sully Westminster's crockery. Then he sent MPs a letter last week stating forced to abandon The Double "the Catering Committee does not have a policy of banning such foods". Foodies confused by this neither flesh-nor-fowl suddenly discovered previous stance are now being told that there is a third way. According to the Director of Catering Services, no ban Polanski has been negotiating exists but there is "a policy of avoiding... the use of foods that are known to contain genetically modified organisms". Pass the hot potatoes. IT'S A question that is

preoccupying Millbank's voung, hot-shot webmeisters. They had an irate call from **Culture Secretary Chris** Smith after he discovered the official Labour Party website listed him as single. This must have come as something of a surprise to Dorian Jabri, the force behind the Tools for Schools computer recycling initiative: he and Smith live together in Islington with their Tibetan terrier, Tian, and are a longtime, long-term couple. Smith's fusillade triggered a volley of calls from other ministers. One wants to post a new picture because the current snap makes his face "look too fat". Another has demanded the removal of all dates from her biography to "avoid her looking so old". Pandora has bottles of fizzy pop chilling on ice for the first readers to successfully identify the two ministers concerned.

PAPARAZZI SNAPS have surfaced showing Doris Day, 73, snogging her next door neighbour, some silvertongued lothario of 79. Whiperack-away!

LONDON IS sinking. The capital's water table is at half its depth of 30 years ago; a well in Trafalgar Square is filling up at the rate of three metres per year. London Transport is concerned enough to be meeting

insurance experts to analyse the **Thames Water** predicts that drilling holes to pump away a projected 70 million litres of surplus water will cost £10m - plus £2m per year for subsequent

maintenance. Look for gushing mayoral wannahes to start fishing for those floating voters on a No Flooding platform. But how it will go down in west London's bijou Little Venice?

Contact Pandora by email on: pandora ā independent.co.uk

Hail the prophet of masculinism of Let agreements then a flamboyant and fact them as flamboyant and fact them as flamboyant and fact them as flamboyant and fact them to the fac

and fast-living hero of the counterculture, redefined late 20th-century gender roles in his ground-breaking polemic New Balls Please: Towards a New Masculinity. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the book prompted millions of words, thousands of Men's Studies courses at universities, and hundreds of international conferences, where leading male thinkers could discuss the changing role of men in society with other leading male thinkers.

Now, with the long anticipated publication of his new book The Whole Man, Greer has returned to one of the most important issues of our time: men. Yes, Gerry Greer is

back - and this time he's angry. Of course, as many of our leading male writers have pointed out over the past week, we have all come a long way since the days of New Balls Please. Sometimes, over the past three decades, it has seemed that hardly a week could go by without the publication of yet another study raising new and ever more provocative topics.



TERENCE BLACKER

With 'The Whole Man', Dr Greer has returned to one of the most important issues of our time: men

now politically acceptable? Why is the all-important role that men play in modern society so often taken for granted - indeed, sometimes not even mentioned at all? What should we do about the media's obsession with unacceptable male rolemodels, from Jack Nicholson to Liam Gallagher, who reinforce sexist stereotypes of men as randy, unreliable, slobbish and rude? Is it figure-hugging jeans? Does conforming to the socially approved habit of, say, removing excess hair from one's nostrils represent an acceptance of an oppressive feminine aesthetic?

Dr Gerry Greer was in the forefront of these urgent male debates. When he revealed to a shocked world that, at the age of 19, he had been sexually harassed by an older woman, many of his fellow male writers were quick to confess that they too had been traumatised by ravening, exploitative women. For the first time, it became movingly clear that, in a very real sense, all men were essentially victims.

Now and then, a woman would try to enter the debate with contributions which all right-thinking men quickly recognised as misguided,

opinionated or simply irrelevant. Encouraged by the flukish success of the American best-seller Iron Joanna, an absurd and frankly rather sinister new-age volume which encouraged women to go to the woods together and get in touch with their inner bitches, books expressing a female perspective on the gender debate. They were widely ridiculed by all right-thinking men as hopeless inadequates whose views were utterly irrelevant to what was essentially

an all-male debate. Not that the views of Dr Gerry Greer always found favour with what the media had come to describe as "the brotherhood". On one occasion he feli out with a fellow writer who had falsely alleged that Greer's views on parenthood had been informed by a decision to have a vasectomy at the age of 25. A discussion ensued in which Gerry described his critic as a bald-pated git with fuck-me brogues and three pairs of socks stuffed down the

front of his underpants. If, at this point, certain people had become tired of the debate, they did not include publishers or features editors. Dr Greer was paid £500,000 to update his views. The Daily Telegraph excitedly serialised it for a ek. Less important news topics - the world economy, the future of Europe, the rise of biotechnology,

papers to make way for page after page in which every prominent media male was asked to react to Dr Greer's exciting new views.

Naturally, there were a few nay. sayers and sexists who argued that after 30 years, the New Balls debate had become little more than a said that most of the questions being discussed by this small obsessed group of pundits were ut. terly irrelevant to the lives of men in the outside world, earning a liv. ing or bringing up a family. The sub. ject had become dull, it was argued While the discussion of gender relations had once been important there really were rather more urgent matters to discuss at the end of the millennium.

It was even suggested that, in the acres of newsprint devoted to the issue, the reactions of one or two women might occasionally have been of interest. Unfortunately none could be found who gave a toss about Dr Gerry Greer and his new, improved views on the whole man

Life outside Euroland is rich and full of promise

ANYONE WHO believes the line that joining Euroland is somehow inevitable may like to consider the alternative: remaining a member of Northland.

Northland? Never 'eard of it. No, because it does not exist. But if you were to add up the Western European countries that are not members of the euro and call them Northland, you would have a country that would be slightly larger even than Germany both in population and economic output, Were Northland a single country, it would be the third largest economy in the world.

Who is in Northland? Well, there is the UK for a start. There are the other two Western European noneuro members of the EU, Sweden and Denmark, and three other European countries outside the EU, Switzerland, Norway and - not to be forgotten - Iceland. (I haven't ed the territories that sociated with the UK but are outside the EU - the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Gibraltar, though added together they have almost the same population as Iceland: 250,000

against 270,000.) The total population of Northland is 85.2 million, which compares with Germany's 82.1; their total GDP last year was \$2,207bn (£1,300bn), compared with Germany's \$2,132bn (£1,250bn); and GDP per head was almost identical at \$25,900 (£15,200) per head, compared with Germany's \$25,970 and an average for Euroland

of \$22,130 (£13,000). How come Northland is richer than Euroland? The main reason is that Switzerland, Norway and Denmark all have GDP per head well above \$30,000 a year, the UK pulls the average down, but since it has narrowed the gap with continental Europe over the last seven years, not by very much. The UK GDP per head, at \$23,474, is now more than global mobile phone operators.



HAMISH MCRAE

The nations that have decided against joining the euro are not poor, isolated little countries

10 per cent higher than Italy and only 3 per cent lower than France. But leave aside the current numstrengths, for this gives a feel for the dynamics of Northland's economic

future vis-à-vis that of Euroland.

The key point to grasp is that by

and large Northland is particularly strong in rising industries and is not heavily represented in declining ones. Both the UK and Switzerland have strong international financial service industries. You may not have noticed, but two British banks, Lloyds and HSBC, have become the second and third largest banks in the world by market value, behind the US Citigroup but far larger than Deutsche Bank, continental Europe's largest bank. The UK and Switzerland, with Sweden, also dominate European pharmaceuticals. In communications, Sweden's Ericsson is one of the two main European mobile phone manufacturers (the other being Nokia in Finland), while Britain's Vodafone looks like becoming one of the three or four

THE HISTORIAN James

Walvin asked whether

the Atlantic slave trade

was the beginning of a

process that has continued

into the 20th century, of Euro-

pean and American economic

forces draining Africa of its raw

materials and permanently ex-

The similarities are too dis-

The negatives are quite short. Northland is lightly exposed to old industries such as steel and coal: it has a small (and, in the case of Denmark, particularly efficient) agricultural sector. The UK has managed to downsize its ailing motor industry, while Sweden has sold control of Saab and is in the process of selling Volvo. Northland is also particularly strong in developing intellectual property exports. The United States is far the largest net exporter of intellectual property in the world, but the UK is second and Sweden is third. By contrast, Euroland is a net importer. As trade moves from shifting goods around to shifting ideas, Northland gains more and more of an advantage over

Partly as a result of this nimble restructuring of its industries, Northland has half the unemploycent, compared with 10 per cent.

There is one further reason for optimism about the economic future of Northland compared with Euroland. It has a more favourable demographic outlook. The two largest members of Northland, the UK and Sweden, have reasonably high birth rates: with the exception of Ireland, Sweden has the highest of the EU's fertility rates, while Britain's. at 1.8 babies per mother, is also relatively high. By contrast, Euroland has three of the lowest fertility rates, with Germany, Italy and Spain all around the level of 1.2 to 1.3 babies per mother. In another 30 years' time Euroland will have a vast army of retired people supported by a smaller population of working age. In Northland the balance between workers and dependants will have deteriorated, but by nothing like the same extent.

But wait a minute, you may say:



Stockholm, the wealthy capital of a prosperous country

a country. It has no single political control, no common ideology, no particular vision of what Europe ought to be, and certainly no common currency.

land can be successful without any of these things. It can be more successful than Euroland. It already is in terms of wealth per head; and as I have tried to indicate, its advantage is likely to grow because of its more favourable commercial structure and its more favourable demographics. Being physically close to markets is irrelevant if your output is very light (like pharmaceuticals) and so can be transported very quickly and cheaply, or is weightless (like software, research and telecommunications). Being on the fringe of a larger economic zone used to be a disadvantage. Now it has become irrelevant.

The point of all this is not to argue for or against British membership of the euro. That is a decision that goes far beyond economics. It is simply to point out that the Western European nations that have chosen, for whatever reason, not to have bethis is all fantasy, for Northland is not come the founding members of the

euro zone are not poor, isolated little countries left, somehow, out in the cold. Not only are they in total at least as successful economically as the members of the euro zone; they are larger than the euro zone largest member, Germany. Most important of all, a rational assessment of their comparative advantages and disadvantages suggests that on balance they will probably do better than the euro zone countries in the future.

We all tend to assume that political unity brings economic prosperity: that the economies of scale from access to a larger market makes everyone richer. I'm not sure that was ever true, but in so far as it was, the advantage of being part of a larger economic bloc has surely waned. In so far as Switzerland. Sweden and the UK have been successful, it has been by looking at the world as their market, not just Europe. It is not that the EU is too big a market; it is too small. As for political unity, Northland does well precisely because it does not exist. The moment they launch the "noro" to challenge the euro, it will be time

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ploiting its cheap and pliant labour, offering little in return but enhanced privation. OF FFER BOLL of Set (more - 1 ONE) GRIPPER POLLS & 27.95 per toll : turbing to dismiss. Both the I enclose a crossed chemic PO for slave trade and the debt crisis _____ saddeess on back creade payable
DOEFENSEST VENOVERS (IX: LTD POST) exact a human cost. More than 1.5 million Africans died just or debrine Access Visa access by this during the infamous sea passage. Life expectancy at their destination under the plantation owners was only between seven and 10 years. Now, in heavily indebted sub-Saharan

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""" New papers if he had or compared."

Africa, life expectancy is a quarter of a century lower than it is in Britain or the US. Slaves were sold in early-17th-century Britain for an average price of £4 5s 6d. In sub-Saharan Africa in 1996 the average debt per person was \$379 (£250), many times more than the average income.

There is one especially sinister and exact echo between the two great injustices. Towards the end of slavery an apprenticeship scheme was de-vised, bonding former slaves to their one-time owners for a further six years. Under the current international debt relief initiative, the stringent austerity measures required of indebted countries also last for up to six years before they qualify for extra relief.

Abolition, it was argued, would be ruinous to the colonies, and the commerce of the country. A Bristol sugar merchant, John Carey, complimented the trade in 1695 for giving "so vast an Imployment to our People both by Sea and Land". Now we are told that can-

celling debt will lead to corruption and moral hazard and undermine a country's creditworthiness. But where corruption has its fingers in poor countries' tills, its feet are firmly planted elsewhere. We now know that the IMF lent \$600m (£386m) to Mobutu in Zaire, in the six years after its own officials had reported funds disappearing. The IMF's willingness to bail out irresponsible lenders burnt by the Asia crisis also gave a whole

new meaning to the concept of moral hazard. Opponents of realistic debt



We must break the chains of debt

Podium ANDREW SIMMS

From a lecture at the Union Chapel, Highbury, London, by the Christian Aid campaigner

relief say that countries must remain creditworthy. But the very existence of the debt overhang scares away investors. What about military spending? All governments spend on weapons. Per person, our governments spend far more than those in Africa. Let's just ask who is selling the guns in the first place.

Outlawing slavery in Britain took at least 30 years of footdragging and delay. In 1796, a on debt service than on health the ground."

commitment to gradual abolition prompted one member of 2002 the country may qualify for parliament to protest, "How can you carry on the slave Current plans are an account-trade moderately? How can a ing exercise designed not to country be pillaged and de-stroyed in moderation?" We cannot modify injustice. The question is, to what period we shall prolong it. The new Arch-bishop of Cape Town comments that the external debt of developing countries has become an eternal debt.

The Group of Seven nations (G7), plus Russia, met this year in Cologne. Better debt relief for the poorest countries was high on their agenda. Each year when they meet they promise to find a solution to the ebt crisis.

Nearly two centuries ago, in 1814 and 1815, the rulers of Europe met in Vienna and Paris. They were lobbied by abolitionists such as Thomas Clarkson. No deal was agreed, even though they accepted that slavery was the desolation of Africa, the degradation of Eu-rope and the afflicting scourge of humanity. Will the G7 in Cologne air the same concern, and also delay action?

In Tanzania, more is spent

and education combined. By ing exercise designed not to break the chains, but just light-

en the ball at the end of them. Change will come only when calls for justice become deafening. Today's campaigners have a debt to the past. Many of the techniques we think of as modern were pioneered by the abolitionists. În 1791 Clarkson initiated an early consumer boycott of sugar produced by slavery in the West Indies. He called on people to switch to honey, or sugar produced by free labour - 300,000 people joined the campaign.

At the G7 in Cologne, and the week before in London, thousands backing the Jubilee 2000 coalition campaign formed a symbolic human chain calling for debt bondage to be ended. As an abolitionist, and the author of one of the great narratives of slaves who won their freedom, Frederick Douglas, said: "Those who profess to favour freedom, and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without ploughing up

in which every pronuncy The man what to trace to be CLOSE & GREATURE BLAK LIGHT Manually that's wait what which The second state of the se of the Property of the Property of the Party had become title more than the country back of the country mild mager after to they are in a 11 me said grag lines of the electrons Solve discrement by the stall said med alarma di birmin, medelli Management to the property of the in the outside would bringing all on the and the paradigmit of the property of the safe en per peconse quit de la conse

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ROBERT FISK Hizbollah has carefully

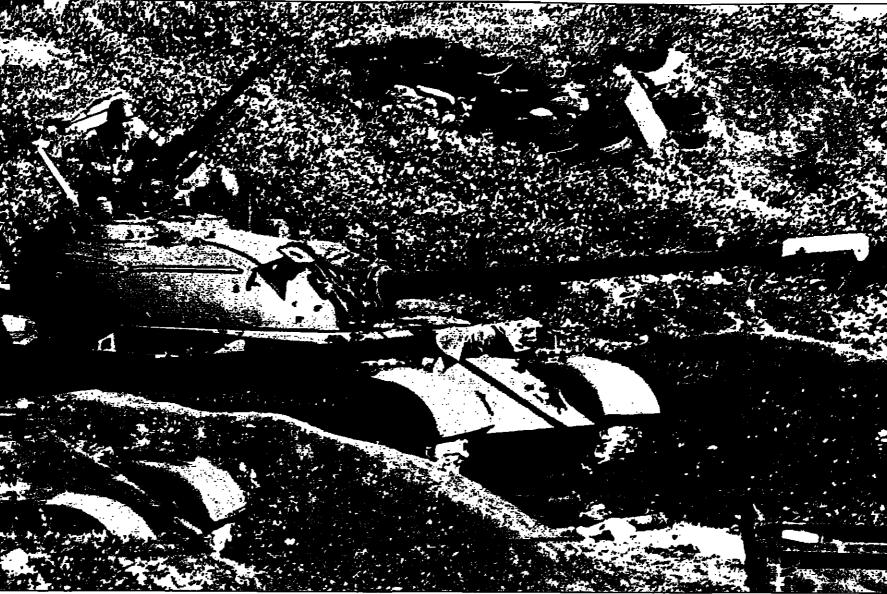
copied Israel's old tactics and turned them against the Israeli army

THE PALESTINIANS used to promise that Lebanon would be Israel's Vietnam. The Israelis laughed at this, invaded Lebanon in 1982 (for the second time in four years), drove the PLO from Beirut and - by the sheer ferocity of their assault - created Hizbollah. And Hizbollah has now fulfilled the Palestinian prediction. Not only has Israel lost the Lebanon war it has been comprehensively defeated by one of the world's most professional guerrilla armies - but America's ally in the Middle East does not frighten the Lebanese any more.

Last week, it was an Israeli colonel and two of his soldiers who were killed in occupied southern Lebanon; this week it is a general and three of his soldiers, all ambushed inside an area which the Israelis still, incredibly, call their "security zone". And what was the Israeli response? The same rhetoric from the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, about "striking at terrorism" that the Lebanese have been hearing for more than 20 years. The vacuity of Israel's much

trumpeted "revenge" was all too evident in the name it chose for its latest retaliation into Lebanon: "Operation Land, Sea and Air." The pitiful truth is that not a single Israeli soldier dare any longer stray outside the occupation zone; not one Israeli soldier will advance on foot or even with tanks to attack Hizbollah guerrillas. So much for the "land" element of the operation. There will be no armoured land assault. The usual artillery bombardments will be fired into Lebanon and in the past 48 hours. we've witnessed the usual air attacks - around 23 raids, bringing the Lebanon in the past 12 months to close on 1,400. And the little Hetzclass gunboat banging away at the old Palestinian camp at Nahme south of Beirut - at a target that has not the slightest connection with Hizbollah - is not going to worry the men who are destroying the Israeli army in southern Lebanon.

Needless to say, the Americans - for the 23rd time in 20 years, by my count - have called on both sides "to exercise restraint". And, as usual, Israel's friends have been



A soldier sitting on his tank yesterday in southern Lebanon after Israel said it would attack Hizbollah targets to avenge the killing of a general Haidar Hawila/Reuters

telling the story from Israel's point of view. CNN told its viewers of the Israeli civilians close to the Lebanese border who had to spend the night in bomb shelters for fear of a Hizbollah attack that never came. There was, of course, no report of the Lebanese civilians who had to spend the night under real Israeli attack, In reality, Hizbollah has assidu-

ously copied Israel's old tactics and turned them against the Israeli army. When Israel began using analogue-system detonation for bombs hidden in rocks to ambush Hizbollah, the guerrillas duplicated the Israeli technology and added booby traps of their own. When the va tanks in armour to prevent rocket attacks, Hizbollah learned to fire missiles between the plating. When the Israelis boasted of their intelligence prowess in southern Lebanon, Rizbollah suborned or blackmailed Israel's Lebanese collaborators and forced them to betray the Israelis. The two most recent ambushes

- līke the destruction of an Israeli commando unit at Aansariyeh last year (itself on an ambush mission) - were all set up by Hizbollah with

the help of men inside Israel's occupation zone, some of them members of Israel's own proxy South Lebanon Army gunmen. This was the very ramshackle militia to which General Erez Gerstein, Israel's latest victim in southern Lebanon, was the liaison officer so no wonder Hizbollah knew his route and the time of his arrival Some of the bombs which killed him were even hanging from the

branches of trees, just like the explosives which killed the Israelis at Aansariyeh. But Hizbollah has copied another far more devastating tactic of the Israelis. In the past, it was Israeli policy to make the Lebanese ence of guerrillas in southern Lebanon. The idea was simple: so greatly would the civilians suffer that they would force the Lebanese government to disarm the guerrillas and save Israel the hard fighting involved in crushing the guerrillas themselves. But now it is Hizbollah that is threatening to fire salvoes of rockets into Israel if the Israelis do not cease their attacks. And it is the

And here lies the beauty of the whole morass for the Lebanese and for Hizbollah's Syrian and Iranian allies. Syria wants the return of the occupied Golan Heights; and the continuation of Hizbollah's war against the occupation of southern Lebanon is the one bloody pressure that Damascus can apply on Israel to leave Golan. Israel, say the Lebanese, can withdraw from southern Lebanon under UN Security Council resolution 425 of 1978 which it has flouted for 21 years. When Mr Netanyahu lists his own conditions for a retreat - which include absorbing his old SLA collaborators into the Lebanese security forces - he is told to get lost. Obey the UN resolution, he is tol which calls for "total and unconditional withdrawal". But the Lebanese are in no hurry to see the Israelis go, because the Syrians are

killing the Israelis for staying. Desperately, Israel is trying to find a way of minimising its military presence in southern Lebanon. Gun batteries which should contain a minimum of 10 Israeli soldiers often contain only four or five. So fearful are they of roadside bombs and missiles that can even pene-

prepared to watch Hizbollah keep

trate Merkava tanks that Israeli soldiers now walk home on leave to the Israeli frontier at night, up to 12 miles of rough hiking across the open countryside of southern Lebanon. The Israelis are planning the possible abandonment of the finger of mountain territory they control up to the town of Jezzine above Sidon: a withdrawal here would reduce casualties on the single road connecting Marjayoun with Jezzine on which more than 30 Israelis have been killed. But this would also allow Hizbollah to concentrate their attacks onto a smaller area of southern Lebanon. Of course, the Vietnam parallels

can be taken too far. The war in Southern Lebanon is not on the awa some scale of the conflict in Southeast Asia. Deaths on both sides are running at a maximum of only a dozen a week. Israelis are not deserting en masse in order to avoid soldiering in southern Lebanon. And Hizbollah is not going to pour over the border into Israel in the event of an Israeli retreat.

The similarities are closer to Shimon Peres's torment three years ago. Anxious to prove he was "tough on terrorism" before an Israeli election, he launched a born-

bardment against Hizbollah in which Israeli artillerymen massacred 106 refugees in a UN camp in a bloodbath at Qana and which brought down more rockets in retaliation on northern Israel than the total in the last 40 years.

Mr Netanyahu now also faces an election in 10 weeks and also wants to prove that he is "tough on terrorism". Already he is speaking of revenge for "the criminal attacks on our towns and villages" - a meretricious statement (unchallenged, of course, by CNN) that totally avoids the truth: that the Israeli general and his comrades were killed not in Israel but in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon.

But the Israeli public is not so easily fooled. The growing movement of Israeli mothers demanding an end to this pointless, hopeless occupation is larger now than it was when Peres was prime minister. Will Mr Netanyahu listen to these voices? Or will he stick to the old, brutal policies pursued with such ferocity almost two decades ago by his current foreign minister, Ariel Sharon. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, Israeli leaders use to threaten. Now, however, that is Hizbollah's motto.

RIGHT OF REPLY

RICHARD BURGE



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The chief executive of the Countryside Alliance replies to yesterday's article by Andreas Whittam Smith

IN HIS article, Andreas Whittam Smith asks for evidence of anti-rural prejudice - he needs only to read his own words for the answer. He promotes ignorance of the issues and peddles the very myths that cause acute resentment against the countryside. Mr Whittam Smith pro-

motes the needs of industrial workers against the needs of rural communities. It is simply not true that the Government is neglecting urban industry in order to featherbed the countryside. A £200m package is reportedly on the cards to help BMW at Rover's Longbridge plant. A mere £120m was scraped together for the entire farming industry as an emergency package.

More importantly, Mr Whittam Smith does not understand the nature of work in the countryside. Most farmers are self-employed, alongside their families.

Farming is not simply a job, it is a livelihood. If you are made redundant in an urban area, you have access to retraining and jobs created in new industries.

In rural areas you lose your home and capital, and there is not even a job centre. British farmers - or most of them on small tenanted holdings - are more victims than beneficiaries of the perversities of the Common Agricultural Policy. It is the only industry nationalised at a European level. A traditionally self-reliant people have far less mobility than urban workers. They are trapped in a game that robs them of self-determination.The One Man and his Dog issue is not about a reluctance to change. It was the one programme about rural people made by rural people.

This piece will be put on our website. Hill farmers have access to the Internet. And Mr Whittam Smith says nothing changes in the countryside!

The end of the world news

Israelis who are pleading with their

government - to withdraw Israeli

troops from southern Lebanon.

THIS IS the 16th annual audit of the global environment from the Washington think-tank the World Watch Institute. Once again, the message is "things are really bad... but don't give up hope". This year's tour of threats to the environment ranges across energy systems, urban life, forests and agriculture. But let's start with the oceans.

We depend on this extraordinary resource for vital and poorly understood global ecological services such as climate regulation, for 16 per cent of our animal protein, not to mention inspiration, beaches and tourism. Yet a breakdown of the world's marine ecosystems is sturing us in the face. A 50-year, resource-intensive binge of economic growth and personal consumption in the OECD countries, combined with breakneck industrialisation and population growth in the southern hemisphere, has taken us to the point of marine catastrophe.

So 60 per cent of the world's coral reces are in danger of destruction; 60



STATE OF THE WORLD 1999

TUESDAY BOOK

EDITED BY LESTER BROWN AND CHRISTOPHER FLAVIN. EARTHSCAN, £14.95

stocks are close to, or beyond, the point of collapse. Cyanide poisoning, as a mode of fishing, is on the rise. Fluorescent algal blooms have turned great swaths of the Gulf of Mexico into a dead zone. Heavy metals and organophosphates accumulate in every stage of the food chain, from phytoplankton via seals to the Canadian Inuits, dependent on their meat and blubber.

The numbers, the ecosystems and the industries change, but across the board, in this meticulously researched and calmly argued report, the story is the same. Fossil-fuel energy systems, pesticide- and irrigation-dependent farming, car-based transport and un-

TUESDAY POEM

NORTH AND SOUTH

BY PAUL DURCAN

At Ireland's extremities -

Malin Head in the North

Mizen Head in the South -

Two identical notices:

PRIVATE KEEP OUT

The identical islander

At the end of his identical tether:

Dune grass, starved sheep, barbed wire;

Whitewashed, womanless cottage.

PRIVATE KEEP OUT

This poem comes from Paul Durcan's new collection,

'Greetings to Our Friends in Brazil' (Harvill. £14.99)

per cent of the world's edible fish regulated mega-cities have all created environmental problems that exceed their benefits. A century of unrelenting growth has brought us accelerating climatic change, declining water tables and disappearing rainforests. If you have not read a State of the World report before, it is almost impossible to read one and not conclude: this cannot go on. It has to stop now. The 1999 edition is no different.

However, your reaction at the end

will probably be: what is to be done? Last year, the worldwatchers were calling for visionary leadership in the US. So 1998 was a political non-starter. This year, in the concluding chapter, political responsibility is cast a little wider: governments, corporations, aid agencies and active citizens all get a look in. And, as the worldwatchers briskly state, there is no shortage of

things to be done now. Governments should be taxing pollution and resource consumption, not work and investment. They should subsidise renewable technologies and cyclists, and stop spending \$650bn a year of public money on logging, mining and motoring. Governments should write better environmental regulations, and enforce more assiduously those they already have. They could make available more inform-

ation about pollution and its risks. Smart companies should be thinking about how they can make a buck out of sustainable energy transport and agriculture, rather than trying to squeeze the last drops of surplus out a few State of the Worlds under his belt. of a poisoned planet. It would also be I have had enough education, and helpful if they devoted less political en- enough of the polite, painless optimism sciences at the Open University



Should there be a tax on pollution?

ergy to spiking international climate

negotiations and biodiversity treaties. The same goes for the international organisations and treaties that we do have. The World Bank, which invests six times as much in the global coal industry as in renewable energy and energy efficiency, could do with a sharp shift in priorities. The World Trade Organisation, as a start, could acquire some environmental priorities. It currently considers nearly all environmental regulations - such as banning the sale of shrimps caught with nets that kill rare sea-turtles - as illegal barriers to free trade.

As for us citizens, we need to get educated. If we could only see the world more holistically, if we could listen to alternative sources of moral knowledge, if we could only think about our children's interests a bit more..., All of this is true, but as a reader who has

of the worldwatchers. It's not their fault. If I were trying to influence the US Congress and mainstream US

opinion, I too would probably be a polite educational optimist. However, there is a pressing need, when we speak to ourselves and to our élites. to be less measured and more angry. At the latest conclave of the G7 finance ministers - the nearest thing we have to a directorate for the regulation of the global juggernaut - the only thing that the suits managed to agree upon in their banal communiqué was

the need to "promote... strong and sustainable domestic-led growth"; by which they mean growth that just keeps on keeping on. These people may be running the planet, but they are not on it. I don't know whether to try to make them read State of the World, or just hit them with it. DAVID GOLDBLATT

The reviewer lectures in social

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Professor Glenn Seaborg

GLENN SEABORG discovered plutonium, one of the world's most exciting substances.

Before dawn on 24 February 1941, the team of nuclear scientists he led at the University of California's Berkeley campus identified element 94 in the periodic table, second of the transuranium elements. It had been made by atomic bombardment in a cyclotron. Plutonium followed the discovery of neptunium, element 93, by Seaborg's colleague Edwin McMillan at Berkeley, in 1940.

Element 94 was named plutonium after Pluto, the next furthest planet from Earth. Seaborg and McMillan shared the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1951 for their discovery of what young Seaborg wanted to call the "actinide series" of the heaviest elements starting with element 89. "Don't do it", friends cautioned, "you'll ruin your scientific reputation," he recalled at a 50th anniversary meeting in 1991. "I had a great advantage," Seaborg replied, "I didn't have any reputation at that time."

His concept proved to have great predictive value, and helped the discovery of another 17 man-made elements, of which he participated in a total of 10. In 1997 element 106 was named seaborgium - the first to be named after a living person. In 1991 the Seaborg institute, devoted to the study of the 20 heaviest elements, from thorium (90), was inaugurated at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California.

No element has been more intensely studied or proved to have a more unruly and fascinating range of properties than plutonium. Seaborg called it the "ornery element". "When you hold a lump of plutonium in your hand it feels warm. like a live rabbit," observed a woman scientist who helped refine it during the Second World War.

Plutonium is a dark, silvery metal which when molten is chemically intensely reactive and very hard to contain. As a solid it exists in several different physical states with different properties, which makes metalworking extremely exasperating as it changes dramatically between states. But its paramount property is that the plutonium-239 native to uranium-235 as a potential nuclear explosive.

Seaborg could not even see his hattan Project (developing the atomic bomb) soon had the science - and ed but the myths still prevail widely. Seaborg - transferred to the Metallurgical Laboratory in Chicago, to work out ways of "mass producing" the metal. Here the first visible amount of plutonium was made: about one millionth of a gram.

ference on plutonium chemistry in Chicago, attended by Seaborg, two main tasks were identified. One was to separate the metal in the amounts and purity required for war purposes. The other was to obtain good understanding of the chemistry needed to build and maintain "atomic piles". Seaborg was appointed to lead the separation team.

In the next two years plutonium manufacture in atomic piles and refinement in kilogram quantities to provide the critical mass for a weapon scaled up the process ten billion times - "surely the greatest scale-up factor éver attempted", Seaborg was to remark.

The verdict of the official history of the Manhattan Project by H.D. Smyth in 1945 was: "Altogether the

Seaborg called it the 'ornery element'. When you hold a lump of plutonium in your hand it feels warm, like a live rabbit,' said a colleague

solving of many of the chemical problems has been one of the most remarkable achievements of the Metallurgical Laboratory." From the outset Seaborg was deeply concerned with the toxicity of the new metal, and the need to protect himself and his team from, in particular, airborne particles. He established safe laboratory practices which prevail to this day.

Plutonium's peculiarities lent themselves more readily to fanciful notions from opponents of nuclear weapons and, later, nuclear power than the other nuclear explosive, by the mid-1970s that, in Britain, the report of the Windscale Inquiry by first speck of plutonium oxide, but Mr Justice Parker spelled out seven the pressures of the new US Man- of the "misunderstandings" then current. His report was implement-

In 1961, when the US and Britain were building their first power reactors, Seaborg was appointed by the powerful US Atomic Energy Commission and the President's others, 1978).

Early in 1942, at a general con-chief nuclear adviser, a post he held for 10 years. He spoke widely, wisely and well on all aspects of the emerging nuclear industry and the technical and social problems it was facing. He gave much thought to what he foresaw as an emerging 'plutonium economy" arising from the byproduct of nuclear reactors. as a way of safeguarding the substance from misuse.

In an interview with the Financial Times in 1969 Seaborg discussed the problems a veritable deluge of US reactor orders - over 30 in the mid-1960s - were causing. "People are now becoming conscious of nuclear power plants." The first coordinated campaigns opposing

We take their criticisms seriously, though they chiefly arise lieved. His counter-attack had just pretation, he contended.

Specifically, said Seaborg, every fact and statement in a story might that was not to be.

Glenn Theodore Seaborg was born in 1912 in Ishperning, Michigan. moved to Chicago.

Seaborg's publications include The Chemistry of the Actinide Elements, with Joseph J. Katz, published in 1958; The Transuranium Elements (1958); Education and the Atom (with Daniel M. Wilkes, 1954): Men and Atom (with William A. Corliss, 1971); Nuclear Milestones President Kennedy as chairman of (1972) and Transuranium Elements: products of modern alchemy (with

through misconceptions," he bebegun, with a tough-talking speech asserting that critics were using an effective method of propaganda known as "stacking the deck". The idea was to amass isolated detrimental facts, and add statements by nuclear authorities lifted out of context, plus a leavening of misinter-

be true. Yet the article and its conclusion remained invalid and mis-leading. "Such dishonesty is made more harmful by the fact that these articles are written as exposés and published in the public interest". He forecast a further deluge of US re-

an iron mining town on the Upper Peninsula. His father was the son of Swedish immigrants, and his mother an immigrant herself. Seaborg spoke Swedish before learning English. He received his first degree in chemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1934; and a PhD three years later. That year, 1937, he was appointed a research associate at Berkeley and began his assocation with such greats of US physics as E.O. Lawrence and J. Robert Oppenheimer, the founders erroneous mythology of plutonium Helen Griggs in 1942, the year he

As a pioneer of nuclear alchemy, gineer and Member for Bristol Cen-Seaborg's many scientific awards and prizes included the Enrico Fermi Award of the US Atomic Energy Commission, in 1957. It was then worth \$50.000. Later came the Priesley Medal of the American Chemical Society in 1979, the Henry De Wolf Smyth Award of the American Nuclear Society in 1982, and the

Glenn Seaborg returned to academic life in 1971, and to a fruitful neriod as scientist, teacher, administrator and government adviser from his original base at Berkeley.

Actinide Award in 1984.

Glenn Seaborg was a formidable presence, writes Tam Dalyell. I met him in the summer of 1965, when I was asked to stay in the house of Bill Carey, then the senior official in the Bureau of the Budget responsible for the funding of the science and space programme.

I was a member of the first House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology, chaired by Arthur Palmer MR electrical en-

tral, who determined that an early report should be on the UK nuclear industry, and was therefore interested in the American view. Seaborg agreed to see me, I suspect, because, like everyone else in federal Washington, he would do a lot to oblige the Bureau of the Budget. The rare a man of passionate convictions, guest of the Bureau of the Budget, however unimportant in himself, would get superior treatment to the guest of the State Department.

On entering his office, I found that he was a man of no small talk, but straight, direct and to the point. He the British nuclear situation, its difficulties, achievements and suc-

I was grilled by this man with piercing eyes on the likely policies towards and consequences for nuclear energy of the incoming 1964 Labour

the price of emphysema, pneumoconiosis, and chronic bronchitis, from working down a pit in bad conditions, he warmed and said quite simply, "that's very near my own family and that's partly why I wanted this job and want to champion the cause of civil nuclear power". He was formed partly by family adversity.

A couple of years later I sent. Seaborg the answers to 70 partiamentary written questions about Aldabra Atoll in the Indian Ocean where it was proposed by the Ministry of Defence that there should be lines proposed by Denis Healey. To have turned the atoll into a base cesses. He knew in detail all about would have been an ecological disthe Windscale accident, which he in- aster and would have been the end sisted on describing as "an incident". of the flightless rail, the pink-footed booby, as well as decimating the giant tortoise of the Indian Ocean, whose breeding place it was.

Seaborg's reaction was concern government. When I explained that as a scientist, and in conjunction with some of the younger Labour MPs his friend Dillon Ripley, Secretary of were fiercely pro-nuclear, because the Smithsonian, he exercised his we saw the price of coal being often right to go to the President of the Unit- California 25 February 1999.

ed States direct, then Lyndon Johnson. Parliamentary questions would not have dissuaded Harold Wilson from going ahead with the Aldabra staging post. But a question from LBJ, prompted by Seaborg and Ripley, was altogether another matter.

As Wilson wryly put it to me some months later in connection with Aldabra - he was a generous soul - "You certainly went to the right people in Washington to scupper our proposal!"

Glenn Theodore Seabora, chemist: born Ishperning, Michigan 19 April Chemistry, University of Califor-nia, Berkeley 1937-39, Instructor, Department of Chemistry 1939-41. Assistant Professor 1941-45. Professor 1945-71, Chancellor 1958-61. University Professor of Chemistry 1971-99; Nobel Prize for Chemistry (jointly with Edwin McMillan) 1951: Chairman, US Atomic Energy Commission 1961-71; married 1942 Helen Griggs (three sons, two daughters, one son deceased); died Lafquette.



actor orders in the early 1970s, but Seaborg in his laboratory at Berkeley, California, in 1941, the year he discovered plutonium

Stanley Dance

IT IS a testimony to their ability to the best of the white trumpet playwrite well and to communicate ers. "Why did he have to say that I lucidly that Leonard Feather and Stanley Dance, both British writers, were able to move to the United States and rise to the top of the heap as experts on jazz, a

completely American art. The textbooks say that Dance went to live in Connecticut in 1937. He found this suggestion offensive: he had stayed in England throughout the Second World War. Total deafness in one ear precluded him from army service and he worked in his father's tobacco business until, inheriting the company himself, he sold up and went to live in the US in 1959.

Only Feather ever made a living out of jazz journalism. Dance needed the financial cushion that he got from selling up his father's firm when he left. The move was prompted too because his Canadian-born wife, Helen Oakley, a jazz authority and record producer in her own right, didn't like the English climate. Oakley had organised concerts for Benny Goodman and had recorded small jazz groups, including some made up of Ellington musicians, from 1937 onwards. She and Dance married while she was in England with the Office of Strategic Services during the war.

In 1958 Sir Edward Lewis, the chairman of the Decca Record Comstanding jazz musicians who Dance felt had been under-recorded. It Hines. Dance was later to become was no coincidence that they were spoke of the matter or engaged in racial politics, Dance felt that black

was white?" Braff wondered.

The Decca albums, issued on the Felsted label, became classics and with them Dance established a new jazz context that he called Mainstream. The categorisation caught on because it was useful. Dance defined it:

Primarily it is a reference term for the Primarily It is a reference term for the wast body of jazz that was at one time in some danger of losing its identity. Practically it is applied to the jazz idiom which developed between the heyday of King Oliver and Jelly Roll Morton on the one hand and that of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie on the other.

In fact Dance regarded Swing as the purlieu of white musicians like Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw. Mainstream was to encompass the work of black musicians including Duke Ellington, Earl Hines, Count Basie, Coleman Hawkins and Buck Clayton. The music and its roots were similar.

The unspoken reverse discrimination on grounds of colour was hard to reconcile. Although Dance's actions helped to bring them new prosperity, the subjects of his new category were not impressed and some felt that he was being patronising.

Dance's interest in jazz had oegun when he was a pupil at Framlingham College in Suffolk from 1925 to 1928. The progressive jazz pany, had sent Dance to New York records that he heard in this perito make a series of albums by out- od included the first made by the pianists Duke Ellington and Earl close to both of them. He wrote his all black for, although he never first essays in the French magazine Juzz Hot in 1935 because "so much of what I read about jazz was so illplayers made superior music to informed and so bad" and over the their white counterparts. On one occasion he wrote that Ruby Braff was US continued to write, often for col-

lectors' magazines, when his work in the tobacco industry allowed. explained only that it lubricated the flow of his prose.

Dance's writings continued to appear copiously until his death. Over the years he was one of the most influential of authors who, through his friendship with Ellington, Hines, Count Basie and others, became more involved with the music than any other non-instrumentalist. His chronicles made him one of the leading jazz historians and he had a hand in shaping the direction taken by the music that he loved.

> When you get someone like Stanley in your corner,' said Earl Hines, 'you're a very lucky fellow'

In 1970 Duke Ellington wrote: Stanley is well informed about my activties and those of my associates. He has been a part of our scene for a long time, maybe longer than he cares to remem-ber. He and his wife Helerrare the kind of people it is good to have in your corner, the kind of people you don't mind knowing your secrets. In other words they are friends - and you don't have to be careful with friends.

Dance contributed a monthly column, "Lightly and Politely", to the British magazine Jazz Journal from 1948 to 1976. In it he used the royal "we". As his fellow columnist I found this an irritating flaw in such a stylish writer and I tackled him about it on a couple of occasions. He

The so-called Bebop Revolution of the mid-Forties was perhaps not the cataclysmic change that critics like Dance made it out to be. It mostly concerned the speeding up of musical thought; the apparent changes in the music were not as radical as they at first appeared. But they were more than enough for Dance. who pulled the blinds down at the appearance on the scene of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie and, as far as developments in the music were concerned, kept them down ever after. Additionally, since the best players of the Twenties had been black, Dance believed that this

would always be the case. In 1957 the bandleader Johnny Dankworth created an incident when, appalled by the showmanship and general hysteria of Lionel Hampton at a Royal Festival Hall concert, he shouted from his seat in the audience, "How about playing some jazz?" Dance's support in Jozz Journal of the black Hampton gave him the chance to clobber a white modernist in passing. He wrote:

What we would like to know is whether Dankworth attended the [Stan] Kenton concert. If he did was he heard to haw the same question? If not, why not? We sat through the Kenton concert indignant and incredulous without bawling once, because we knew that in the audience there were several hundred jackasses who had come long distances to

Kenton's music had far more depth and cerebral activity than the direct and raw passion of Hampton's, and hindsight suggests that Dance's assessment was diametrically wrong. However, a paragraph from him in the current edition of Jazz Times suggests that it never changed:

I liked Stan Kenton personally, but I likes Stan Action personally, our invariably found his music too grandiose and heavy to swing. It was no surprise when he made a Wagner album. Teutonic ambitions having cost me friends and relatives in two world wars, I was

Later, when Dance travelled with Duke Ellington, closer to him than anyone else as he helped him with day-to-day matters and wrote continuously about the band's activities, the trumpeter Buck Clayton said to me, "Every time that Duke wanted a pee, Stanley was there to unzip his fly for him."

In 1964, when Earl Hines's career was at a low ebb, Dance persuaded some promoters to support three concerts by the pianist at the Little Theatre in New York. They were sensationally successful and as a result Hines, with Dance's support, resumed his rightful place at the head of the jazz pantheon. "I always say I'm an amateur manager," said Dance, but his guidance of Hines and Ellington was faultless. He was largely responsible for the surge of recordings by the two men, and contributed informed and enlightening notes to their albums. He had already won a Grammy Award in 1963 for his liner notes to the record set

The Ellington Era. His output of articles and books was breathtaking in size. Already a contributor to Down Beat, Metronome, the New York Herald Tribune and Saturday Review, he began to collect together his pieces in books such as The World of Duke Ellington (1970), The World of Swing (1974), The World of Earl Hines (1977), The World of Count Basie (1980), The Night People (1971, about the jazz trombonist Dicky Wells), and Those



Dance: 'Lightly and Politely'

helped to write, 1984). He won the ever when he joined me for a BBC Ascap-Deems Taylor Award in 1979 for his book Duke Ellington in Person: an intimate memoir, on which he had collaborated with Ellington's son Mercer. He had probably also been responsible for writing Duke Ellington's autobiography Music is My Mistress.

He wrote for the American Jazz Times from 1980 until his death, being in charge of the book review section. Many of the reviews were his own and because he was so wellinformed, and because his writing style remained so vivid, it was not Swinging Years (the autobiogra- possible to detect any deterioration

phy of Charlie Burnett, which Dance in his skills. He was as eloquent as North radio programme last year. His love of his music and his insights into it shone through: he would have been an excellent broadcaster, had he turned his mind to it.

"When you get somebody like Stanley in your corner," said Earl Hines, "you're a very lucky fellow." STEVE VOCE

Stanley Frank Dance, writer and record producer: born Braintree, Essex 15 September 1910; married 1947 Helen Oakley (two sons, two daughters); died Rancho Bernardo, California 23 February 1999.

Kurt Eissler

KURT EISSLER, the Viennese psychoanalyst, was one of Freud's most faithful adherents.

An eminent scholar and historian of the international psychoanalytic movement, Eissler was a distinguished clinician. He combined a profound understanding of Freud's metapsychology with practical application and, alongside Freud's daughter Anna, is one of the only successors who developed and expanded Freud's concepts without distorting them.

He was the author of 12 published books and almost 100 articles, many of which are cornerstones for psychoanalytic training. His most important role was as a Freud biographer, with a special understanding of trauma, creativitx and genius. He subsequently founded the Sigmund Freud Archives, and established the Anna Freud Foundation and the Freud Literary Heritage Foundation.

Among the psycho-biographical books Eissler published is a notable study of Leonardo da Vinci (Leonardo da Vinci: psychoanalytic notes on the enigma, 1961), a two-volume work on Goethe (Goethe: a psychoanalytic study, 1775-1786, 1963), and another on Shakespeare's Hamlet. He wrote a pathbreaking book in The Psychiatrist and the Dying Patient (1955), and another on medical orthodoxy and the future of psychoanalysis. His "irreverence" - his own word - for rigid orthodoxies defined his consistent stance as a classical psychoanalyst impatient with institutional inflexibilities, which he believed endangered the future of psychoanalysis.

Eissier's radical open-mindedness allowed him to introduce new rules for treatment of patients, to address questions of fees and the effect on the analyst of his own ageing process, and to write definitive essays on mechanisms of defence such as isolation, on the death drive, on the metapsychology of the preconscious, and on ego structure and psychoanalytic technique.

Bold in argument, he refuted the misstatements and errors of Freud's wouldbe biographers and detractors by simply demonstrating that they did not read closely or accurately enough: he wrote two books to correct lesser scholars' views on the suicide of Freud's patient Viktor Tausk. Most recently, he combated injustices of many kinds, including the fashionable misapprehensions of Freud's seduction theory, the topic of his Nachlass, a book-length manuscript

Indefatigable and enormously disciplined, he owed his stamina to his early rigorous training in Vienna, where he assisted August Aichorn, a specialist in adolescence and delinquency, and also to his service as a psychiatrist in the US Army during the Second World War. His writings on schizophrenia, delinquency, efficient soldiers, and malingering indicate his mettle.

He wrote a book on Freud as an expert witness in the trial of Julius Wagner-Juaregg. After the war, he wrote a prescient indictment of German



Eissler with Princess Marie Bonaparte (a descendant of Napoleon's brother Lucien), 1960. Analysed by Sigmund Freud, she was berself a well-known psychoanalyst Freud Museum / Sigmund Freud Copyrights

psychiatry which defended against compensating survivors of the concentration camps, including parents who saw their children killed. His own sibling was murdered in a concentration camp in the autumn of 1943.

K.R. Eissler (as he preferred to style himself) was born in Vienna in 1908. He received a PhD in Psychology in 1934 and an MD in 1937 from the University of Vi-

interrupted by Germany's annexation of Austria. He fled to the United States, to Chicago, where he qualified for the American Board of Psychiatry, and contested the hegemony of Franz Alexander's technique. He once again interrupted his practice and volunteered in 1943 for service in the army and, as Captain of the Medical Corps, he directed

After the war Eissler, frustrated at not being able to find the answer Freud had given to a questionnaire about '10 good books', founded the Sigmund Freud Archives

enna. His PhD thesis under Professor Karl a consultation service in a training Bühler was on the constancy of visual configurations in the variations of objects and their representation. He underwent psychoanalytic training at the Vienna Psychoanalytic Institute in its most fertile period among colleagues such as August Aichorn, Paul Federn, and Richard Sterba, and became a member of the directorship of the Sigmund Freud

war, he moved to New York, where he remained in psychoanalytic practice until three weeks before his death.

A footnote to his legacy is the controversy which arose during the establishment of a line of succession to the Vienna Psychoanlaytic Society in 1938. Archives which he founded in 1952 with 17 February 1999.

His psychoanalytic practice was a group of psychoanalysts, with himself terrupted by Germany's annexation in the capacity of secretary. The purpose Austria. He field to the United States, uments relating to the history of psychoanalysis, especially letters to and from Freud and interviews with those who knew him

A recent exhibition of a small sample of the collection housed in the Li-brary of Congress in Washington, DC, and soon to travel to the Jewish Museum in New York, and then to Vienna and Los Angeles, does not do justice to the scope of Eissler's original project which arose out of his traumatic flight from Vienna: all his papers had been left behind and after the war he longed to find an answer Freud had published to a newspaper questionnaire regarding "10 good books". It was the frustration of that quest which led Eissler to conceive of stablishing an archive "filr Ewig".

He was predeceased in 1989 by his wife, Dr Ruth Eissler, an editor of the book series "The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child".

JENNIFER STONE

Kurt Robert Eissler, psychoanalyst: born Vienna 2 July 1908; married 1936 Ruth Selke (died 1989); died New York

HISTORICAL NOTES

The Bible has no need of archaeology

aeology has been a great tual life. The difference reembarrassment to modern research. Because no other ancient world of Palestine had been known, it seemed better to present the Bible's world as history than to have no history at all. This has guaranteed that the Bible be misread. Biblical archaeology has exploited the Bible's story to provide Palestinian archaeology with historical gloss and relevance; it has resolutely failed to provide the Bible with an historical context that it might reasonably be understood as an intellectual and literary expression of the world in which it was written.

Archaeology has done much in recent years to reassert its academic integrity within the universities. It has taken its departure from the theologians, just as Assyriology and Egyptology did long ago. Yet, few have asked why theology has been willing to pay so high a price that it might claim a biblical storyworld as historical. Why is an understanding of the Bible as fiction seen to undermine its truth and integrity? How does historicising this literature give it greater legitimacy? Has the authority of history replaced that of the divine in the theological imagination?

Traditions such as the Bible's, which provided ancient society with a memory and a past to be shared, are very different from the critical histories that play a cen-

A CENTURY of biblical arch trait role in modern intellector unrealistic, and it is cerflects a perception of reality. The biblical view might ingly realistic and truthful be epitomised with the on its own terms. The Persian (ahistorical) axiom: "There is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes i, 9; compare

John i, 1-5). With this judgement, Solomon gives voice to the biblical perception that all of history is at the creation. Human history is but a transient reiteration of creation: nothingness and vanity in the face of divine reality. This is the Bible's view: not that which pale, demythologised variant biblical archaeology has given us. The Bible's theology does not allow us to read this book as if it were history.

On the other hand, when we sketch a history of Palestine's Bronze and Iron Ages independent of the theological biases of biblical archaeology, field archaeologists and historians are able to offer a quite detailed view of this region's ancient society, its development and its history. It is a story of farmers and shepherds, of villages and markets. It is about local patrons and their clients and all the early ways of life that mark this corner of the Mediterranean. Drawn almost entirely from anthropology, archaeology and historical geography, this picture differs from what biblical archaeol-

ogy and theology offer us. The problem has not been that the Bible is exaggerated £25)

tainly not that the Bible is false. The Bible is surprisand Hellenistic intellectual world in which the Bible has its roots knew little about ancient Near Eastern gods. It knew even less about God - and this is part of the problem that modern theology

has with the Bible. The movers and shakers of the ancient literary world were sceptical about religion and about traditional views about gods. Many rejected the gods outright and made fun of them. Unwilling to attribute human passion and personal will to the transcendent, the Bible's writers were suspicious of the traditional stories that made gods too personal. As He is epitomised in Job and II Kings, the Bible's God is silent and absent. Formal religious practices and the comforts of piety are seen as nonsense or worse. Traditional beliefs are misleading at best. Ultimate reality and the truly divine are transcendent, beyond under-

standing. God is unknown. Without equivocation, the true meaning of the divine escapes the writers of the Bible as it escapes us, but that is how human beings know.

Thomas L. Thompson is the author of The Bible in History: how writers create a past' (Jonathan Cape,

GAZETTE

BIRTHS. **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

LAWRENCE: Martin S.T.A.
Lawrence MA BM BCh (Oxford 1971) FRCP FRCGP Born 12
December 1943, died peacefully at home on 27 February 1999.
GP in Chipping Norton, University Lecturer in General Practice and Fellow of Green College, Oxford, Deeply loved and beloved of Annette, Anna Jo, Michael, Christian and Jude. He will be sadly missed by his relatives, friends, colleagues, patients and students, in this country and abroad, Funeral service at St Kenelm's, Church Enstone, Thursday 4 March at 2pm, followed by private cremation, Doantions please in his memory for ICRF at Churchill Hospital Oxford, Marie Curie Nurses, Katharine House Hospital, Chipping Norton e'o Sole & Soa, Bidston Close, Over Norton OX7 5PP.

MAURICE: Phyllis, HMI Education 1950-70, died 20 February 1999. Her Chief Inspector of the time said of her work, "I do not know of any infant school in the country which did not look forward to her visit and feel better for her presence in their school." The thanksgiving service will take place at Borrow Parish Church, Barrow, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, at 2pm on 9 March followed by the committal at the Crematorium, Risby.

MONEY-EVRLE: Andley Francis, on 26 February in Wilishire. aged 73. Survived by his brothers Ernle, Roger and John, and by his sons Julian and Nicholas. Funeral on Friday 5 March at St Andrew's Church, Heddington, near Caine, Wiltshire, at 20m. Enquiries Wootton & Son Funeral Directors, 01249 812258.

Announcements for Births, Marriages & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Miss Pat Arrowsmith, peace campaigner, 69; Miss Margaret Barbieri, ballerina, 52; Mr Harry Blech, founder of the London Mozart Players, 89; Lady Moyra Browne, former superintendent, St John Ambulance Brigade, 81; Sir Leonard Crossland, former chairman, Ford Motor Co. 85; Lord Elton, former government minister, 69; Mr Jon Finch, actor. 59; Mr John Gardner, composer, 82; Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Soviet Union, 68; Sir Donald Gosling, joint chairman, National Car Parks Ltd, 70; Mr Ronald Groves, former chairman, Meyer International 79: Lord Howie of Troon, engineer, publisher and journalist, 75; Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, 76; Dame Naomi James, yachtswoman, 50; Mr Nicholas Jarrold, ambassador to Latvia, 53; Miss Jennifer Jones, actress, 80; Mr Robert Lloyd, operatic bass, 59; Sir John Manduell, former Principal, Royal Northera College of Music, 71; Mr Hugh Monro, Headmaster. Clifton College, 49; Mr Lembit Opik MP, 34; Lt-Gen Sir

ROYAL

ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh

visits the British Equestrian

Trade Association Interna-

tional Fair, at the National

Liveryman, attends the

Worshipful Company of

Exhibition Centre, Birming-

ham: and, as First Honorary

Robert Richardson, 70; Mr John Tusa, managing director, Barbican Centre, 63; Mr John Peter Rhys Williams, rugby player and surgeon, 50; Mr Ian Woosnam, golfer, 41.

ANNIVERSARIES Births: Sir Thomas Bodley. founder of the Bodleian, 1545; Bedrich Smetana, composer, 1834; Kurt Julian Weill, composer, 1900; Geoffrey Edward Harvey Grigson, poet and critic, 1905. Deaths: John Wesley, founder of Methodism, 1791; Horace Walnole, fourth Earl of Orford, novelist and historian, 1797; Ismail Pasha, Khedive of Egypt, 1895; Queen Elizabeth of Romania (Carmen Silva, novelist), 1916: David Herbert Lawrence. novelist, 1930; Howard Carter, painter and Egyptologist, 1939; Lloyd Logan Pearsali Smith, essayist, 1946. On this day: Morocco once more became independent, 1956; the French prototype Concorde made its first test flight, 1969: Rhodesia was proclaimed a republic, 1970. Today is the Feast Day of St Chad or Caedda, St Joavan of Brittany and The Martyrs under the

LECTURES

National Gallery: Rebecca Lyons, "Ingres and . . . (i): ingres and Raphael", 1pm. National Portrait Gallery. Jeffrey Page, "Local Connections: George Scarf, artist at work, London 1815-50",

Royal Holloway, Egham, Surrey: Professor Olwen Hufton, "Whatever Happened to the History of the Nun?", 5.30pm. RIBA Architecture Gallery, London W1: Katherine Shonfield. "Walls Have Feelings",

RECEPTIONS

National Portrait Gallery The Earl of Carlisle hosted a reception at the House of Lords, London SW1, in honour of the Chairman and Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery. Lord Carlisle and Lord Morris of Castle Morris, Vice-Chairman of the gallery, were the speakers. Among those present were: AMONG TROSE PRESENT WE'RE:
Lord and Lady Annau; Lord Baker of
Dorking: Bartaness Blackstons; Lord
Bragg: Lord and Lady Charteris of Amisfield: The Earl and Countess of GowelLord and Lady Hndilp; Lord inglewood;
Lord Jenkins of Hillhead; Lord and
Lady McIntosh of Hartagor; Professor
Earl Rossel; Lord Smoot of Highbury;
Lord St John of Paystley; Lord Tugendhat; Lord Westherill; Mr Peter Ainswurth

President, the British Horse

Society, opens the BHS Res-

Princess Alexandra attends

a Gala Dinner, to mark the

Academy of Music and Dra-

30th Anniversary of her

Patronage of the London

matic Art, at St James's

cue Centre, Stonecroft

Oxhill, Warwickshire.

Equestrian Centre Ltd.

DINNERS

St David's Day London Welsh Celebration Mr William Hague MP was guest of honour at the 96th St David's Day London Welsh Celebration Banquet held last night at the Savoy Hotel, London WC2. Brigadie Rolph James presided. The Right Rev J. Ivor Rees, Lord Chalfont and Sir Tasker Watkins also sooke.

GLAZIERS' Company

Mr George Cracknell, Master of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers, received the guests at a reception and supper following the 13th Annual Glaziers Lecture given yesterday at Glaziers' Hall, London SE1. Dr Sebastian Strobl, Director of Stained Glass Conservation at Canterbury Cathedral, gave the lecture, on Telling the Truth? Hon-

esty and Deception in Stained Glass Conservation".

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11,30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

Licensee was entitled to evict trespassers

A LICENSEE who was not in de facto possession or occupation of the land was entitled to maintain proceedings to evict trespassers on the land by way of an order for possession under RSC

Order 113.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of trespassers on land owned by the National Trust against an order giving possession of the land to Manchester Airport, which had been granted a licence by the National Trust to enter and occupy the land in order to carry out certain works.

The National Trust was the owner of property known as Arthur's Wood, which was near the site of the proposed second runway for Manchester Airnort. In order to comply with operating conditions for the second runway, the respondent airport company needed to carry out certain works, which involved lopping and felling trees, within the wood.

The appellants, who were opposed to the carrying out of the works on environmental and ecological grounds, entered the wood and set up encampments vithout licence or permission from the National Trust.

Very shortly after the appellants had taken up occupa-tion of the wood, the National Trust granted a licence to the respondent to enter and occupy the land for the purpose of carrying out the works. The respondent commenced

proceedings by issuing a summons under RSC Order 113 against the appellants. The district judge granted an order for possession, and the appellants appealed to the judge on the ground that since the respon-

TUESDAY LAW REPORT

2 MARCH 1999

Dutton and others ▼ Manchester Airport; Court of Appeal

(Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice Laws) 23 February 1999

dent, as a licensee, did not have exclusive possession of the land, it had no locus stondi to apply for an order under Order 113.

The judge dismissed the appeal, and the appellants appealed. The central issue on the appeal was whether the respondent, as licensee, was entitled to rely on Order 113 notwithstanding that it was not in de facto occupation or pos-

session of the land. Christopher Maile in person, and on behalf of the other appellants; Timothy King QC and Mark J Forte (Legal Department, Manchester Airport plc) for the

Lord Justice Laws said that it was clear that, if the respondents had been in actual occupation under the licence and the trespassers had then entered on the site, the respondents could have obtained an order for possession against them.

The principal objection to the respondents' obtaining such an order before they entered into occupation was that such

relief would amount to an electment, and ejectment was a remedy available only to a party with title to or estate in the land. which the respondent, as mere licensee, plainly lacked.

It was clear that that was the old law, but the old learning demonstrated only that the remedy of ejectment was simnly not concerned with the potential rights of a licensee, being by definition concerned with the case where the plaintiff asserted a better title to the land than the defendant.

There was a logical mistake in the notion that because the remedy of ejectment was only available to estate owners, possession could not be available to licensees who did not emov de facto occupation. If the action for ejectment was by definition concerned only with the rights of estate owners, it was necessarily silent upon the question of what relief might be available to a licensee. The limited and specific nature of ejectment meant only that it was not available to a licensee; it did not imply the further proposition that no remedy by way of possession could now be granted to

a licensee not in occupation. Nowadays there was no dis-tinct remedy of ejectment. The court today had ample power to grant a remedy to a licensee which would protect but not exceed his legal rights granted by the licence. The true principle was that a licensee not in occupation might claim possession against a trespasser if that was a necessary remedy to vindicate and give effect to such rights of occupation as he enjoyed by contract with his licensor

KATE O'HANLON. Barrister

raj sharma of Leicester's Sharma store laments: Sometimes it's a lonely business. But with The Grocer you feel you've got someone on your side." In Jane Kelly's "Focus on Pizza", Green Isle Foods' managing director Michael Dwyer lauds "the next generation main meal pizza"

WORDS CHRISTOPHER

HAWTREE presliced, adj.

Feast of Flavours "presticed with sharing in mind". Johnson defines pre- as "a particle which, prefixed which, says Ms Kelly, is to words derived from the

time or rank". Whatever the inability to slice pizza, why, in this era of business "efficiency", is so much breath wasted in adding a syllable inherent in such words as booked? Swift noted, "You need not wipe your knife to cut bread; because in cutting a slice or two it will wipe itself."

Latin, marks priority of

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President, the Rural Housing

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at the Heritage Motor Muse-

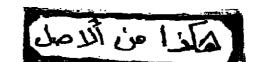
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We used to aspire to enjoying high art, however difficult. Were we fooling ourselves, or have audiences got lazy? By John Walsh

How low can we go?

no respect. If you could reduce the whole baggy arguments about whether or not Western culture is "dumbing down" to a single proposition, it would be this ancient whinge. Whether it's the young at fault, or the teachers who have allowed them to get this way, somewhere along the line people stopped respecting the high arts.

There used to be a cultural divide between the classes, or so we grew up believing. There were nobs and groundlings, and their levels of appreciation of the arts were quite diferent. The nobs in Shakespeare's day, with perfumed kerchiefs applied to their fastidious poses, understood the classical dramatic tradtions from which Hamlet, or The Merchant of Venice, or A Winter's Tale, derived, and nodded approvingly at the poetry, while the groundlings went along for the love scenes, the jokes, the fights, the pathos and the costumes. The arts divide continued right up to this centary: on television, ITV gave the masses what they wanted, BBC1 ried to instruct and entertain, BBC2 was for the specialist intellectual.

Classical music was to be appreciated only by a finite number of posh adherents, who knew the Köchel numbers of all Mozart's symphonies, and wore tuxedos to concerts at the Wigmore Hall. The middle classes .night enjoy Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, or Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony - these might be canoncal works, but we liked them only for the tunes. Far beyond lay Bruckner and Shoenberg, and you needed a detree in composition and a special sonic apparatus to appreciate them. Some things, we were taught, would always be available only to the

bravest travellers in Culture Canyon.

ids today they've got pressionistic poppy fields and fat no respect. If you bathers in feathery pastels. The could reduce the working classes seemed content with Tretchikoff's Dying Swan or the paintings of galloping elephants you could buy in Woolworths. But there was a higher level where people paid fortunes for horrible daubs by Pollock, or boring religious scenes by Tintoretto, and you couldn't fathom why they were supposed to be good. Likewise you could read bits of Ezra Pound's Cantos. Blake's Milton, Spencer's Faerie Queen, Dante's Divine Comedy, Nabokov's Ada and Joyce's Finnegans Wake, but

make neither head nor tail of them. The odd thing was, we didn't mind. We accepted that some things were beyond us and might always be, unless we tried a little harder. We deferred to the notion that the Inner Sanctums of art and literature were beyond the reach of ordinary "entertainment", and that it took concentration, intelligence, a willingness to learn and a little humility to appreciate the best. But we aspired to it. We hoped we'd get there one day.

It was all about self-education. In classical music, you start with The Blue Danube, go ou to Tchaikovsky's violin concerto, then to Beethoven's Ninth, then all the others, then to Schubert, Mendelssohn, Brahms. Chopin, Satie... You still had a long way to go before you'd get into Tristan und Isolde, but you might just manage it eventually.

We learnt to dread the word "philistine", partly because we were afraid the word might apply to us. When I worked as a hospital porter at 18, I was a pre-university Niles Crane, whinnying with distaste at the prosaic responses of my fellow porters. One morning, Tim, the Millwall fan with the funny eye, said he'd been to see Death in Venice. "Pile of crap," he commented. "What was it about? Nuffing. This bloke, right? Same with art. Ordinary people "E goes to Venice, right? E wanders personally offended by Conrad's bold stand for individualism, but in tion". Even the culture of recomning transfers of the old about. And he dies. That's it. Oh yeah views of women; and that she could its negative aspects it's merely the mendation has changed: instead of masters. The Haywain, the im- and 'e's a poof." Dear God, I therefore not study him. Such fatu- mask of the philistine. "If I don't like being influenced to buy a new book



thought, Goliath wasn't the biggest of them. But I was uncomfortably aware that, though I knew more than Tim what the film was about, I'd found Mann's book almost unreadably stodgy. I liked the movie - so did that make me just a sucker for

pretty pictures on sunny beaches? What has changed in the last few years is our sense of the aristos and our relation to it, our worries about it. That's where the culture has dumbed down - in being content with so little, with the available, the halfunderstood, the "relevant". Instead of a collective sense of appreciation, sanctioned by time, tradition and the respect of previous generations, we've seen the rise of cavilling subjectivism, in which the opinions of the individual are given the same weight as those of the majority.

In the universities of Great Britain, enshrined in the equal opportunities and harassment policies of many students unions, is the diktat that staff and students should be "protected" from anything that might have a "negative emotional impact" upon them. Writing in The Spectator a fortnight ago, Jennie Bristow reported how this "offensiveness" could apply to the syllabus, and instanced an English Literature seminar on Conrad's Lord Jim. One student, an American, said she was

ous interventions now appear all over the place. A friend who teaches at Geneva University was told by several students that they were "uncomfortable" studying Shakespeare because of the high prevalence of royalty among his dramatis personae; they couldn't see how all these wayward and warlike kings, these vacillating princes and enervated dukes were "relevant" to their



DUMB BRITANNIA 1. HIGH ART

Media Studies course was explaining the manipulative use of the camera lens in "sexist" moviemaking, when she was interrupted by a cry of "Do you think you should be telling us this?". ("What next?" she said. "Will they say, 'How dare you

tell us there's no Santa Claus?'.") Subjectivism may sound like a bold stand for individualism, but in tion". Even the culture of recom-

it", the argument runs, "or I don't get it, it's worthless. I don't want a relationship with something I don't understand, because it upsets me." Warren Zevon wrote a song called "Ain't That Pretty At All", surely the only extant pop song about philis-tinism, in which the sceptical narrator goes to the Louvre, inspects the Mona Lisa, discovers it's not all that wonderful, and "Then I hurl myself against the wall/Because I'd

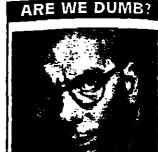
rather feel bad than not feel anything at all..." In place of feeling bad or feeling nothing, there's now the culture of circumambience, in which people consume art secondhand. They need not look at the pictures, listen to the music, read the book, attend the play or see the film, because they get all they need from the chatter about the author/painter/director's life, reputation, habits, dental operation, sex life, and likelihood to win a prize.

The simplistic explanation has taken over from more considered responses. Hence the rise in popularity of installation art. Once you've grasped the "concept" of Damien Hirst's medicine cabinet, or Tracy Emin's tent, you've got the whole thing. Even Princess Diana could understand the exhibits at the Serpentine Gallery and amaze her friends by passing on the "explanaby the enthusiasm of a trusted reviewer, readers are more likely to be influenced by prizes. If it won the Booker, the Whitbread, the W H Smith, the Forward, let's see what all the fuss is about.

"Dumbed down" doesn't mean that our children are becoming more stupid. It means that we've lost respect for the best. We have ceased to defer to the idea of a higher Parnassus of thought, artistry and feeling; we've chosen to be content with much less.

Without a higher good to defer to, everything becomes relative. Without a hierarchy of brilliance, things cease to be important: things like knowledge for its own sake ("God, what a boff," the kids at my daughter's school will say, at any display of general knowledge), sublimity, verbal intelligence, intellectual curiosity and the ability to follow the thought-flow in the novels of Lawrence or Woolf or Henry James. They may not be much to lose. when compared to the infotech wonders of "hypertext", but the world will be a rather two-dimensional place without them.

Comorrow in Dumb Britannia, Judith Judd considers education; Thursday, Thomas Sutcliffe on television; Friday, Barney Hoskyns on pop culture: Saturday, David Lister draws conclusions



men all stills (training or a fine

"Dumbing down suggests that society has moved into a renume mass democracy. Ip until the advent of the Thatcher era, we lived in a very much guided democracy governed by a highly sophisticated political, moral and social elite... Thatcher heraid ed the destruction of this, and Blair's government has signified how culture has finally caught up with élitism. The yobs have caught up with the snobs... This is not particularly a result of human wickedss, it simply happened and we have to live with it." Dr David Starkey, historian. writer, broadcaster



Dumbing down is the surrender of cultural life to its lowest common denominator. It suggests a lowering of our sights so that we have come to lack any sense of vision. Mass culture nowadays belittles what is truly challenging by subscribing to what is neither here nor there." Mark Ryan, conference director, Culture Wars (Riverside Studios, London W8, 5-7 March)

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"Dumbing down is about sound-bites, photo-bites and wck-fixes Lisa Appignanesi, author







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are enjoying a bit of TV stardom. Four months ago they were singled out by a Channel Four film crew and were asked to be extras in Queer As Folk, the new drama about gay life in Manchester.

Last week they watched the programme, including sex scenes which left little to the imagination. "It was very explicit," says Dave, rather sheepishly. "I was a bit shocked when I saw it. I thought there would be a few kissing scenes but it was nothing like that. I'm also a bit concerned about my dad. I know he watched it and he hasn't phoned me since. I

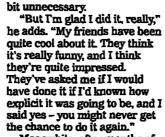
ROBBIE, ALISTAIR and David

told everyone we were in it. Still, it was good money. We were paid £150 for two nights of walking up and down the street. The only hitch was that they tried to make Robbie wear this very tight top and he refused, so we wore our own clothes." Robbie avoided any family

embarrassment. "I meant to ask them to tape it for me, but I forgot to tell them and I don't think I'm going to now. I think they might be a bit shocked. It's good that the programme is dealing with the gay lifestyle, but it's trying to make it a bit too shocking. There were gay sex scenes throughout it and I thought, oh my gosh, that was a

Glad to be gay, just for a day, but don't tell Dad

Queer as students? The irresistible lure of television draws the boys into startling new territory. By Cayte Williams



Meanwhile, after months of conflict with the landlord (she said work needed doing, he said it didn't), Rachael moved out of the house last week with Dani. Their arguments with the house's owner culminated in visits from an environmental health officer and the removal

THIS STUDENT



WEEK 8 AT THE MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

of their kitchen. Now the landlord has

THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

35. 'University Challenge' by Nicholas Lezard

boarded up the top-floor flat where the two girls lived and doesn't plan to rent it out again. "But he's agreed to keep the rent the same for us," says Ian with a shrug. Rachael and Dani never really took to the dynamics of a shared house, and have moved into a

comfortable two-bedroom flat in a smarter part of town. When they had a kitchen, they spent most of their time on the top floor away from the communal student squalor. And when they didn't, they spent most of their time away from the house. The other girls in the house,

kitchen has been a mess since before Christmas, and it was the boys who made all the mess, but they've been trying to get us to do it." 'The boys' bathroom downstairs is disgustingly

going to miss them. "It's been

war lately," says Rosie. "That

dirty," says Leona. "There are slugs in there." The girls are planning on visiting Rachael and Dani frequently - at least for a decent wash. But the boys may be looking for new

housemates before long. "We want to get out of this dirty, run-down house

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Valentines

GRAYSHOTT HALL VALENTINE WINNERS!

The following two Independent On Sunday readers have been confirmed as the winners in our recent Valentine message promotion on February 14th.

WINNER MR RAKHIT RUNNER-UP MR EDWARDS

Our two readers will be enjoying a luxury break with their partners at the fabulous GRAYSHOTT HALL Health Fitness Retreat in Surrey.

Congratulations to our winners and better luck next year to everyone else for our Valentine promotion in February 2000!!



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THE FIRST thing they got right was keeping the old theme music. BOING bing bong ding! dee-dah-diddlytee-de-dee... The maddest signature tune ever. It was odd that they even

thought of reviving it. It was looking fusty under Bamber Gascoigne; and when it was parodied in an episode of The Young Ones (with Stephen Fry - who had appeared on the real show -

as Lord Snot, of Footlights College, Oxford) you would have thought that it would be put out of its misery. But, 10 years later, it was back, with the inspired choice of Jeremy Paxman as host. That, pace Bamber, was all they needed to bring

The first Paxman shows were greeted with despairing editorials and think-pieces about how the

was becoming cretinised. Well, up to a point, and it is distressing how ignorant students are of literature (I am haunted by a picture round in which students from Durham and Balliol College, Oxford, failed to identify portraits of James Joyce, Iris Murdoch and TS Eliot). But there are plenty of questions to which I do

down, how our young elite

was at university. And if you think that some of the students are a little cocky, think back to the special edition in which teams of tabloid and broadsheet journalists were pitted against each other The latter lost and exposed

not know the answers now,

and certainly didn't when I

themselves as vain fools. It is the studenty aspect of the show that keeps us watching. Even though we know this is to miss the



Fry's delight Granada TV

point a bit, we do feel that we are taking a core sample of the state of higher education - although anyone who went to an institute of higher learning knows that a truly representative team would have to have at least three

panellists who were dolts. Its success, though, rests mainly on the arbitrary nature of our loyalties. Who do you root for? Well, any non-Oxbridge college, that's obvious. Except, of course, for the one you went to Not that you say much about that. If there are no Oxbridge colleges playing, then you root for the team with the most sexually alluring member.

And we haven't even talked about the thrill of the nippy zoom-ins (imagine how fast they must have seemed in the Sixties), the humiliating scores, the way you blank the difficult questions ("What's the capital of Lombardy? Quick!") but shout out "Northanger Abbey, you FOOL!" when you know the answer. It's a show that makes fools of us all without treating us like idiots.

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SOMY REVIEW W



the lowering of ear sights at his we have come to lack and pressent vision. Many culture now adays be littless what is truly challers. by makes thing to what is **without horse** that United hark Ryan, contesence **Burkista**, Culture Wars threspor Station, Long **前後 5-7 Mai(Fi)**



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Lies Applenancei, author

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Is it the world? Or is it me?

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When an artist hammered nails into himself it used to be about politics. Now it's therapy. By Simon Grant

i a recent performance, the Italian artist Franko B stood naked on stage, blood pouring from wounds inflicted on both arms, the hot, coagulating mass gathering by his feet. He remained with arms outstretched, in a beatific pose - his wounds evidently reminiscent of stigmata - for half an hour, before staggering off stage, near collapse from loss of blood. "I don't want to be a cheap Jesus," says Franko B, but it is hard not to feel some sort of empathetic pain for a man who is regularly prepared to go through this kind of ordeal. Franko B and his contemporaries

have been performing similar acts for many years, but it is only recently that they have become part of mainstream culture. Much of the shock value has disappeared, and consequently the meaning of the word "masochism", which is usually applied to much body art and is defined as "a form of perversion in which the sufferer derives pleasure from his own pain or humiliation", seems inadequate, especially considering how fashionable bodypiercing has now become.

Where once artists would insist on the importance of a work's political meaning, recent efforts have become more personal. Performance art that looks gory. such as that of Franko B, may say something about the performer's personal state in the world, but the messages that it sends out to audiences have become more complex. "I don't want people to feel sorry for me," says Franko B. "It's not my intention to freak people out. I just want to create beautiful images and survive them, like life make the bearable unbearable." It is natural for us to respond to the performances' strength in the light of the artists' physical suffering.

Ron Athey, a former Pentecostal preacher, has Aids, and his performances function as a form of cathartic release. Not surprisingly, he uses plenty of religious imagery. For a recent work, he pierced his head with a series of 14-in humbar needles to create a crown of thorns. He has also been crucified, with meat hooks through his arms. Athey describes himself as "a fatalist with a lust for mance artists see the body not as an nocently - gropes and prods - turned life", but he does not see his object to experiment on but as a into an uncontrollable spectacle. performance as masochism for its means of showing how vulnerable we Her clothes were ripped off, then her own sake. "Some of the sado-masochistic

techniques in my work are used as metaphor, and create a ritual by skulls and other emblems of mordoing them. When I put an arrow through myself it is a metaphor for Saint Sebastian, and represents HIV-positive people."



Franko B: 'I don't want people to feel sorry for me. It's my intention to freak them out'

"I was brought up to be ashamed of my body," says Franko B. "I use blood, urine and shit as a metaphor because that is what I am." In an era when technology may give the impression that the body is intellectually and physically redundant have become. There is nothing new about this. The intention of 17th-century vanitas paintings, with their tality, was to remind viewers of the omnipresence of death.

Things have changed. In the heyday of performance art in the late piece called Shoot (1971), a friend

chaotic or violent, experimentation was almost more of an intellectual enquiry. Take Marina Abramovic's Rhythm (1974). She placed in front of her various instruments of pleasure and pain and invited her (as demonstrated by Stelarc's audience to do as they pleased over electronic body extensions), perfor- a six-hour period. What began in-

> loaded gun was put to her head. Chris Burden's acts were similarly extreme. He had himself nailed to a VW Beetle, burnt and electrocuted. Most famously, in a

to these artists, though it was often seen as macho posturing. No one did it better than the Viennese actionist Rudolf Schwarzkogler. His provocative and psychologically inflammatory acts were based around mutilation, He presented pictures of a bandaged stump, along with his supposedly Flanagan had a hedonistic spirit that dismembered penis. Most saw it as added greatly to his work. skin was cut with blades. A protecthe perfect masochistic act. Which

tive gang surrounded her when a it would have been, had it been true - but his penis was neatly tucked inside his Y-fronts. Today the most poignant performers deal with confessional subject matter, and use it to their

advantage. The late Bob Flanagan,

Sixties and Seventies, however shot him at point-blank range. for example, a long-term cystic Self-mythologising was important fibrosis sufferer; re-created a hospital room in which he would lie in bed, tell jokes and write stories for the visitors. It was his way of dealing with sense of optimism that is lacking in, say, Orlan's relentless cosmetic surgery to remodel her face in the image of a variety of female icons.

> Athey and their contemporaries, are Development Agency has informconfessing their own lives, for their ation on forthcoming events in own ends. For Léopold von Sacher the UK (0171-247 3339). Masoch, from whom masochism Chris Burden's recent (non-body takes its name, pain was most art) work will appear at the Tate definitely a pleasurable luxury in Gallery, London SW1 (0171-887 which he could indulge, supported 8000) from 18 March

living in a dream world. Franko B is not. His actions may look like masochism, but they are instead just one of many types of therapy his impending death. Here was a that are becoming increasingly common in our culture. Franko B' is to be published by

by wealth and privilege. But he was

Black Dog on 11 March, with signings by the artist. For more information, call 0171-485 4996.

In the same way, Franko B, Ron The newly created Live Art

Just keep playing the music

IF IT hadn't been for the wiles of the a smile. Moral: keep at it, and bemusic business, the Full Monty strip would have happened to Rod Stewart's "Do you think I'm sexy?" Not quite the same oomph, somehow. According to an executive speaking at Sunday's Musicalliance conference session, EMI jumped in with "I believe in Miracles" when rights negotiations were stalling. But they let the film producers have the song cheap; not much subsidy-devouring classical. mileage in a film about unemployed steel workers, apparently.

sales later, the company man was voice there, with live foyer showall too happy to tell the story with cases to back up the talking shop.

lieve in the value of your music. It was taken to heart by the crowd of less famous music business people who had occupied the Barbican for the weekend. Since Musicalliance started five years ago - with the unappealing title of Non Pop, and in Basingstoke - it has found its feet as a forum for the sectors of music that are neither corporate pop nor

That's most of music: anything from bhangra in Nottingham to Half a million Hot Chocolate surf rock in Southampton had its

MUSIC MUSICALLIANCE '99 BARBICAN LONDON

People who work with these musicians feel they are missing a gravy train. They don't have EMI to sell their film rights, and they see the organised opera and orchestra lobbies clean out the funding system. This year, with bigger numbers

attending, the conference atmosphere was exasperated but positive. Half the point of getting the bureaucrats and record industry people

to address sessions is for them to and the ambience shares the lad- weekend did its bit with a line-up of feel the mood. What they hear is part therapy - promoters letting off steam find that everybody else shares their problem - and part selfhelp. Some of the most popular sessions deal with the nuts and bolts of what goes wrong with contracts

and why funding applications fail. Most people are there to network and keep in touch, and let the world take notice of strength in numbers. Musicalliance lacked a main theme or a grand finale issuing public statements. It still needs to extend its scope: African and Asian music get hived off into minority sessions.

dishness of the pop world. If you believed the conference literature, hangovers were compulsory.

But the movement's hour may be at hand. This sector is set to do well out of the transfer of funds from the Arts Council to the regions. The British Council has already updated its attitudes: folk rock and club mixes are better ambassadors than to The Spitz for Salon Oriental, to string quartets. It's now up to Musicalliance to shout about the opportunities, because you sure as anything won't be hearing about them from the orchestral world.

And to keep on playing. The

performers around the Barbican. Yoruba Jazz People held the Sunday lunch crowd, and the Anglo-Welsh band Fernhill seduced the audience for a Raymond Gubbay classical night (now there's a promoter who could help, if he knew how big the

Musicalliance market is). The closing session moved over sample Byron Wallen's trumpet and do some serious belly-dancing. Actions may speak louder than words, but the two together add up to a voice that has to be heard.

ROBERT MAYCOCK

Funny, all too funny

COMEDY

GOODNESS GRACIQUS ME THE SWAN THEATRE HIGH WYCOMBE

COMEDY HAS always made canny use of the stage. The successful stand-up comedian works the clubs, graduates to the telly and, if the big time really comes, cashes in with a six-week dash round the country's theatres.

Over the past five or six years though, sitcoms, game shows and sketch shows, conceived, written and produced specially for television, have started treading the boards. Bottom, The Fast Show and Shooting Stars all hit the road before Goodness Gracious Me followed suit

And just as with its BBC2 forebears, don't expect anything new. Whereas the live show is often the crucible for a stand-up's latest material, the Goodness Gracious Me team seem to regard a live tour as an exercise in what advertisers call "brand loyalty". There are obvious problems with this.

Meera Syal, Sanjeev Bhaskar Nina Wadia, Kulvinder Ghir, Richard Pinto and Sharat Sardana developed the original TV and radio shows with 30minute lengths in mind; stretching the material into a twoand-a-half-hour greatest skits revue does it few favours.

It ought to be said that the show's well of humour – the British-Asian experience, to put it crudely - has enormous potential. Don't forget that there is precious little mainstream comedy in which ethnic audiences can feel wholly included. Favourites from the TV show, the Bhangra-Muffins ("Kiss my chuddies!") and Smeeta Smitten the Showbiz Kitten, were greeted ecstatically by what looked, pleasingly, to be a pretty mixed audience.

The problem (and it did seem to be mine alone) came with the unambitious nature of the evening. The show revealed its reliance on some threadbare cultural archetypes, given an Asian twist. Mothers who pit sons' achievements against each other are universal, as is the wannabe lover-boy whose gauche honesty wrecks his date. Goodness Gracious Me's signature sketch, Indian urbanites going for an English after a night on the lassis, avoids this by focusing its satire far more sharply.

Perhaps the occasional facile lapse is a small price to pay for the more daring, sophisticated comedy the team obviously has in it. The best of their sketches such as the first-generation immigrant who believes anything of worth to be Indian – married The Fast Show's brevity to Harry Enfield's nose for a character.

There were hints, though, that the team may be less eager to please either their British or their British-Asian audience in the future. The violent subjugation of women, for instance, cropped up in a number of sketches. Comfortable stuff, then, but with just the odd, promising threat.

Southend (tonight), Croydon (tomorrow), Hackney Empire (Thursday), then touring.

Jimi: top of the fops

WHILING AWAY the brief daylight hours in a Finnish mayonnaise factory, Joe 90-lookalike Jimi Tenor was suddenly struck by the uphonious properties of the inveyer beit. He decided to build on this unusual inspiration by acquainting himself with a synthesiser and, before he knew it, had secured a record deal.

As luck would have it, Tenor found himself at the vanguard of get up to at the weekends. fashion. Urban easy-listening devotoes were enraptured by his kitsch melodies and Barry White crooning and it was this combat trousered traternity who were out in force at last Thursday's show.

But Tenor's intrinsic weirdness managed to startle even this selfconsciously laid-back crowd. He is famed for arriving on stage on horseback but on this occasion in-waiting, employed solely to keep to greet the four horsemen with a his champagne glass topped up. Adorned with a glittering lilac headdress that textered atop syntheticlooking white hair, he came across like a hybrid of Andy Warhol and Liberace. This eccentric attire, coupled with his choked false to croon-

POP JIMI TENOR IMPROV THEATRE LONDON

ing, made him veer erratically between camp and creepy, and his intermittent "ooomph"-ing, and "aaaah"-ing conjured up some unsavoury images of what he might

While the monotonous factory vibrations are still discernible in Tenor's grinding rhythms and funereal sampling, they are tempered by Sixties lounge, Seventies funk, jazz, synth pop and house influences. Welded together, they sounded oddly timeless.

Tenor opened the show with his new single, "Year of the Apoca-Funkadelic grooves that exhorted usto all the gloomy millenniumobsessed records currently choking

the Top 40. Tenor's wardrobe may betray a fondness for high camp, but his face gave nothing away. From behind his



lypse", a dance track laced with Jimi Tenor: veers between camp and creepy

Elvis-style shades, he remained suits and avoiding all eye contact unsmilingly locked into the middle with the audience. distance and managed to say clarinettist - were similarly dry, truly weird. sipping champagne in their natty

While his music may prove to be "spaced-out, man" without a trace a passing fad, Tenor's brand of of irony. Even his band - two saxo- eccentricity transcends novelty and phonists, a trumpeter and a laughs in the face of fashion. He is

FIONA STURGES

Through the Quixote

IF YOU'RE thinking of adapting a novel for the stage, there's a useful game you can play called "Where's the interval?". As most novels tend not to have a dramatic climax halfway through, this is not quite as fatuous as it sounds.

Unfortunately, although Cervantes's satirical romance Don Quixote de la Mancha is famously in two parts, I suspect that neither the director, Marta Momblant Ribas, nor the adapter, David Johnston, thought about such things when they decided to stage it. However, their decision of how best to divide the action into two halves pales beside the other problems of how to dramatise this episodic, peripatetic narrative.

The relationship between reader and character is profoundly different to that between audience and character. The novel's strength rests on the satisfying literary device of repetition, each new scene colourfully reinforcing the basic idea of the impossible idealism of the knight as counterpointed by the realism of his canny rustic sidekick, Sancho Panza. In the theatre, which tends to rely on character determining and driv-

THEATRE EL QUIJOTE THE GATE THEATRE LONDON

ing dramatic action, this shaping of the material proves less interesting. Yes, I know the novel triumphed on stage as Man of La Mancha, but that was a rare instance of a musical in enrich and develop dramatically unleavened material.

Given that El Quixote, then, is not a story of unexpected narrative twists and turns, the director has to find different ways of ensnaring the viewer. Ribas is helped immeasurably by Bruno Santini's earthy design, which conjures the dusky Spanish heat through a concentration of burnished, coppery reds and yellows. He also builds scaffolding into the tiny space to create different levels, and seats the audience round the action - much of which is platform lifted and lowered by the hard-working cast.

The production is dedicated to the memory of Jacques Lecoq, whose To 27 March (0171-229 0706)

physical theatre training-school is responsible for the blossoming of generations of talents. Consequently, there is undeniable vigour in the committed ensemble acting, particularly in the large-scale set-pieces. Yet much of the acting is effortful and the sound of overly hearty, actorly laughter points to a lack of substance beneath the surface. Too often, the cast appear to have been left to their which music had a real function: to own devices. Like too many directors, Ribas is stronger on staging images than on delivering text through the voices.

Visually, Patrick Kealey's Don looks as if he has stepped out of a Velasquez painting (colours by El Greco?) but his pedantically measured delivery fatally slows the pace still further. Mehmet Ergen tries to inject life into the proceedings as Sancho Panza, but the script's weak comedy does him few favours.

There's a partially effective device of the story being read to two girls but when someone remarks, "I'm cunningly suspended upon a wooden sorry, I'm not persuaded by this scene", it's hard not to agree. DAVID BENEDICT

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He always denied their existence. But do the drawings really dispel the myth of his paintings' spontaneity? By Tom Lubbock

ecause something has been kept secret, needn't mean it holds a secret. Francis Bacon always said that he never drew, he only painted. But since his death in 1992 a lot of pictures have turned up that undermine this claim. Their value and status are still disputable and the smallish show at the Tate Gallery; Francis Bacon: Works on Paper, is, in some ways, premature. Still, the topic is obviously of note to anyone interested in Bacon, and this glimpse is worth catching. What sort of revelation it offers is another matter.

The drawings at the Tate are dated to about 1957-61. A good moment: Bacon was about 50 years old and - a late beginner on the brink of what is now seen as his mature style. There are pencil sketches on paper, and oil-paint sketches on paper, and Biro sketches on paper. There are also a couple of examples of his drawings over photographs, where Bacon has taken a photo-reproduction from a book or a magazine and worked over it in paint, sometimes completely obliterating it, sometimes altering it only slightly.

Now, there's nothing here that could be called a finished drawing. Almost all of them are figure studies, quite loose sketches, generally involved with working out some body pose or - if that sounds too anatomically correct - some body shape. Some of them can be related, and quite closely, to paintings; some not. And though it would be presumptuous to say that they're just what you would expect Bacon's drawings to look like, I don't think anyone seeing them will get a big surprise, or say wow, so that's how he drew

No. They figure. And as for the altered photos - well, they're interesting, because they show Bacon disrupting an existing image, and in his paintings he's often disrupting his own images - but they're almost not news. We know from photos of his studio and his interview with David Sylvester that he worked from, and among, torn-out and trampled-on photos - Eisenstein film stills, Muybridge motion studies, fine-art reproductions, natural history shots. The fact that he worked on them, too, doesn't seem such a big difference.

I don't say these drawings lack value or enlightenment. They're often graceful in the way that Bacon himself was graceful. They stress the cartoony side of his art, which is always worth stressing. But I do say: if we'd known them all along, I don't think we'd now give them a lot of attention. And if you're looking for revelations, you have to see them in quite another way.

You may remember a TV programme on these drawings-over-photos, in the possession of a friend of the artist. They're not in this show, But these, it was said, the Tate had at one point taken an interest in - they were offered without charge, apparently but then the gallery got cold feet, and the affair was made to sound mysterious and conspiratorial, as if the Tate wanted to hush up the very existence of these pictures.

The problem, I gather, is that another, non-Bacon hand had been detected in the pictures, and that made them dodgy. But now it's thought possible that this other hand belonged to Bacon's boyfriend of the time, and that the drawings aren't so much inauthentic as collaborative. Whatever value that might give them, it seems likely that many visitors will have seen the programme, and could do with more information here. All we get is a tiny mention in the catalogue - "substantial quantities of comparable material have recently been attributed to the artist" - a briskness that suggests the issue remains tricky.

The TV programme, of course, and others, too, have gone on to suggest that





Rough and ready: clockwise from main picture, 'Pink Crawling Figure', 'Figure with Foot in Hand' and 'Fallen Figure'

wasn't just that the old dog had been caught telling lies. No one could be surprised or shocked by that, as such. And it's not that Bacon mightn't have had good reasons for keeping his drawings quiet. As David Sylvester says in his preface, he probably didn't think they were much good in themselves, and he didn't want to encourage an irrelevant interest in his creative process,

as opposed to his paintings.
Fine. But he may have had bad reasons, too. And what's suggested is that discovery of these drawings touches his paintings very damagingly. By denying them, Bacon was really trying to deny the fact that he had a creative process at all. For didn't he always claim to work in an entirely hands, brushes, rags, and sponges flying unplanned and quasi-random manner? And everywhere. At the end of it all, things

the existence of any Bacon drawings is doesn't the power of his art involve a sense settle, and there on the canvas is the image more than tricky, it's damned awkward. It of this spontaneity? But these studies and try-outs sink that story - and expose the painting as a kind of con. That's the

dreadful secret they reveal. Not quite. But it is a slightly difficult issue. I think the right answer goes like this. The above line of thought is quite wrong; the existence of the drawings damages the painting not at all. But on the other hand, Bacon himself probably believed something rather like that, and it was a reason for him to deny his drawings. After all, the Bacon myth, partly self-constructed, tends to picture the artist as fighting drunk, fling-And the thing is, you can half-believe it, ing himself and several pots of paint at the canvas. There follows a great Andy Capp-style dust-up, a cloud of energy with

- the skid-mark of the impact, so to speak.

What I'm getting at is that Bacon did half-want to elide the act of painting. There are all those vivid and memorable phrases in the interviews with Sylvester - about making images straight off his nervous system, or leaving a trail like a snail leaves its slime, or making images that didn't look as though they'd been interfered with. They don't all say the same thing, but the general idea is of images that emanate, materialise, just happen – sort

too. Bacon's images do have paint skid-mark aspects, and the bodies he depicts have lost their boundaries and they blend

painter's own body and its contact with the canvas. This, indeed, is the illusion the paintings often achieve. Bacon is careful to conceal any traces of too deliberated paint-work - and conceals them in the same spirit as he concealed his drawing.

But remember, it is an illusion, and he careful. True, the paintings have randomly thrown splats of paint in them, and wild strokes, but they are incorporated very cunningly. This spontaneity is, unavoidably, a matter of work. And the existence of drawn studies should be no more of a revelation to us than the "revelation" that Bacon was an extremely skilful operator.

If you really wanted a posthumous revelation about Bacon's art, that would be its subject: Bacon's skills in operation, and into those skid-marks; and then you can operating in one particular area. For imaginatively transfer this feeling on to the

Tate's drawings. There are body studies, but there are no head or face studies. I suppose half Bacon's fame rests on what he did to heads and faces. Who wouldn't like to see how that was done? So the revelation I'm imagining is a hitherto undiscovered reel of film, close up on the middle of a Bacon canvas, showing the artist doing his first strokes, his solid modelling of forms and then his blur-smears, dissolves and sudden fade-outs, his chancy, flung blots and spiashes and his seamless blending of them into the image, his finishing touches. Bacon-wise, I can't think of a more valuable or curious document. There's almost certainly no such thing. But you never know.

Trancis Bacon: Works on Paper', Tute Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887

Material witness

For George Kennethson sculpting in stone was like 'walking on a tightrope'. But his mastery of the medium kept him faithful, despite critical neglect. By Lesley Jackson

THE IRONY of George Kennethson's career as a sculptor was that, just at the point when he reached artistic maturity, his material stone - went out of fashion. By the Fifties, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth had begun to work in bronze, and the new generation of British sculptors - Chadwick, Meadows. Butler, Paolozzi et al - worked almost exclusively in metal. The revival of direct stone carving in the Twenties and Thirties, although crucially important in the history of English sculpture, was all too brief.

Ever since the Second World War, the art world has become increasingly faddish. If an artist is even slightly out of sync with the latest trend, he or she is likely to be ignored. Such has been Kennethson's fate, although a new exhibition hopefully signals a turning-point.

Born in Richmond in 1910, Kennethson studied at the Royal Academy from 1928 to 1934. Although by this date the Modern Movement was well under way, teaching at the RA was still highly traditional. While appreciating the achievements of the and wide to select choice pieces. He believed that it was the artist's Centre was one of the few galleries old Masters, Michelangelo in par-Limestones such as Hornton, Clipduty to dig for truth and, above all, to show Kennethson's sculpture

poraries he particularly admired the visual world". the stone carvings of Henry Moore.

Like many artists of the period. he became fascinated by African sculpture, while closer to home,

ticular. Kennethson was equally sham and Purbeck were among his interested in modern art, an appetite favourites, along with English fuelled by exhibitions and the books alabaster. Nature provided lifelong of Herbert Read. Cézanne was a inspiration, although in his words, great hero, and among his contem- he was "enthralled by everything in

> His sculptures fall into two main groups, figures and landscapes, the latter expressed through abstract forms. The rhythms of the sea, and

In the great humanist tradition, he believed art could bring wisdom and understanding

medieval stone carvings fired his imagination. All these influences the rocks on the coastline, fired his would later resurface in his sculpture. Although he excelled at draw- ated by people, the contours and ing, it was sculpture he pursued on leaving the RA. On settling at Uffington in Berkshire, near the Vale of which is why his figures are stylised the White Horse, he quickly rather than particular. achieved mastery over stone.

With his notebook full of dimensions for the sculptures he had in he believed man could arrive at mind, he would travel to quarries far

imagination. He was equally fascinrhythms of their features, and the relationship between these elements.

Kennethson worked in the great humanist tradition. Through art, greater wisdom and understanding.

to take risks. Carving in stone is the riskiest medium of all, because instead of adding, the artist creates by subtracting; the margins between success and failure are a matter of millimetres. "Being a sculptor," he said, "is like walking on a tightrope. You can fall off at any minute."

Because of the vagaries of fashion, his work was mostly overlooked, except by an independentminded few. Among these was Jim Ede, the founder of the remarkable collection at Kettle's Yard in Cambridge. He and Kennethson became great friends, and it was Ede who introduced him to the sculpture of Gaudier-Brzeska. As a result, Kettle's Yard (as well as the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art) is one of the few public collections in which Kennethson's work is represented.

Another person who appreciated his talents was the Sloane Street gallery-owner Madeleine Ponsonby (now known as Madeleine Bessborough), whose New Art Centre has flown the flag for British sculpture since the Sixties. The New Art



Songs of stone: Kennethson was mostly overlooked apart from by an independent-minded few

during this period, and although it eventually closed in 1993, it has now risen, phoenix-like, in a new location - Roche Court, near Salisbury -with a beautiful, purpose-designed sculpture gailery created by

that an exhibition of Kennethson's work can now be seen, a choice selection of both figurative and abstract works spanning his career. Having failed to appreciate his work, and the

Appropriately, it is at Roche Court around, if the art world has any sense it will take notice now.

> George Kennethson, the New Art Centre, Roche Court Sculpture Garden, East Winterslow, Salisbury.



#**2023** (#27) ≥ 1 Sandani : ...

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HEALTH

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Drug of the century

In an age of super-pills, the best medicine of all is also one of the oldest. By Jeremy Laurance

have a potent agent in the medicine cabinet at home, though few know it. They keep a heart drug at the back of the sock drawer, a fertility promoter buried in their handbag and a cognitive enhancer standing next to the salt pot in the kitchen.

The drug is aspirin, a chemical entity for which new uses are still coming to light 100 years after it was discovered. We know, of course, that it reduces aches and pains, and ple fact were better known. It is being tested as a pre-

ventive agent against Alzheimer's disease, it has been shown to reduce the risk of stroke, and it can ward off cancer. Those who take it regularly have a 40 per cent reduced risk of dying of cancer of the oesophagus, stomach and bowel. Research also suggests it is effective against herpes and prostate cancer.

Aspirin can fairly claim to be the 20th century's broadestspectrum medicine - the closest we have come to a miracle drug. Bayer, the German company that discovered it, has earmarked Monday 8 March as the official birthday, though there is some dispute about exactly when the centenary falls.

The company plans to wrap a stomach, by combining it with Seventies and the newer drug 400-ft tower at its headquarters in Leverkusen, with the help of 50 Alpine mountaineers, to create the world's largest aspirin pack and earn itself a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

Aspirin is derived from the

records date from 400BC, when Hippocrates recommended willow bark infusions to ease labour pains. Interest was revived in 1753 by the Reverend Edward Stone who was tempted to chew on the bark of the white willow while walking in a field near Chipping Norton. He eases fevers in diseases such as may have been influenced by an flu. It is now also a standard old theory of medicines known treatment for heart attacks - as the Doctrine of Signatures. take one immediately after call- This held that the cure to a ing 999. Tens of thousands of disease might be found in the ves could be saved if this sim- same place as the cause. Fevers were believed to be aggravated by damp, and willows flourished in damp places.

Chewing the bark, Stone noticed that it tasted bitter, like "Jesuits' bark", from a Peruvian tree, which was used as a painkiller and which we now know to contain quinine. He made an infusion of the willow bark and gave it to 50 people suffering from fever. It proved effective and Stone reported his results to the presi-

dent of the Royal Society. It was not until 1897 that Felix Hoffman, a German chemist working for Bayer, found a way to reduce the sideeffects of salicylic acid, the active ingredient of willow bark, which included severe irritation of mouth, oesophagus and

an acetyl group to make aspirin. now has 90 per cent of the Despite this advance, the new drug was dismissed by Heinrich Besser, the head of Bayer's Pharmacological Institute, as "typical Berlin hot air". Bayer's chairman intervened, after seesalicin found in willow bark, and ing the result of laboratory mechanism, and opened up a tests, and the rest is history.

Aspirin can fairly claim to be the

By 1950 aspirin was the bestselling painkiller and in 1969 it went to the moon with Neil Armstrong aboard Apollo. But its mechanism was still a mystery. In 1966 The New York hormone-like substances made Times called it "the wonder in almost all the body's cells, drug that no one understands"

By then aspirin was being challenged by newer painkillers such as paracetamol and, later. ibuprofen. Paracetamol lacks aspirin's irritant effect on the stomach - severe in 6 per cent of the population - and sales rose rapidly. Both drugs are equally effective at reducing pain and fever but aspirin has an additional anti-inflammatory effect, like ibuprofen, and is better than paracetamol for sprains, cuts and bruises where swelling is involved. However, it should not be taken by children under 12 because of the risk of Reye's syndrome, a rare disorder that can cause delirium.

convulsions and death. Sales of paracetamol overtook those of aspirin in the late

closest we have to a miracle drug

analgesics market. But aspirin

was about to undergo a renais-

sance that would lift it into a dif-

ferent class. Dr John Vane of

the Royal College of Surgeons

unlocked the secret of aspirin's

vista of new therapeutic

opportunities. Dr Vane, whose work earned him a knighthood and a Nobel prize, discovered that aspirin works by inhibiting

production of prostaglandins,

brain. Prostaglandins are involved in many diseases. In heart disease, a prostaglandinlike substance called thromboxane promotes clotting. A single daily aspirin inhibits production of thromboxane, effectively reducing the blood's tendency to form clots, and cuts by a third the incidence of heart attacks in those at risk. Aspirin's anti-inflammatory

properties help the pain of arthritis and it was a chance observation that sufferers who took it had a lower incidence of Alzheimer's disease, which suggested the drug might have a protective effect on the brain.

100mg of aspirin and half a which trigger pain signals to the placebo to see whether the drug can stave off Alzheimer's. Aspirin can reduce the risk of strokes and cuts the incid-

ence of pre-eclampsia, a dangerous condition in pregnancy that can threaten the lives of mother and baby. In women undergoing in-vitro fertilisation who have an immune system problem caused by raised levels of antiphospholipid antibodies, a daily aspirin more than doubles their chance of

Aspirin today has a slightly dowdy image, partly because it is cheap and has been with us for so long. But it has shown a Now a 10-year trial of 400 men repeated capacity to surprise is about to start in Cardiff, run over the last 100 years. It is a by the Medical Research Coun- safe bet that the party is not cil, in which half will be given over for this remarkable drug,

Relief for restless legs

WHAT IS restless legs syndrome? lf you have an irresistible urge to move your legs. particularly at night, you may be suffering from this little known, but common, disorder. Symptoms of RLS are often described as burning, itching, pulling or tugging, and the only relief is to move the legs or walk around. A variety of drugs are used to treat the symptoms, but there is no test to

MY HUSBAND has been taking Tasmar for Parkinson's disease and it has dramatically improved his symptoms. But the drug has now been stopped because it is no longer available in this country, although I understand it is still available abroad. Is there any way of obtaining it? Tasmar (also known by its chemical name tolcapone)

diagnose it with certainty.

has been withdrawn throughout the European Union by its manufacturers, Roche, following several deaths from acute liver failure. But the same drug is still being marketed in the United States, Switzerland and other countries. Roche says it is currently "working closely" with drug regulatory authorities and I think there is a possibility that the drug will be reintroduced with

I DIDN'T have measles as a child (I am 46) and

new recommendations

A QUESTION

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do not wish to catch it now. I am travelling to Central America soon and my guidebook says the incidence of measles there is increasing. Should I ask for the measles vaccine, or are tbere risks from that in itself?

There is no reason why you should not protect yourself from measles by having a vaccination before you set off. The measles vaccine is no longer available on its own, but you could have MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine, which would have the added advantage of protecting you against all three diseases. There is no upper age limit for this vaccine, and a single dose should provide you with lifelong protection.

Please send your questions to A Question of Health, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fox 0171-293 2182; or e-mail health@independent.co.uk – Dr Kavalier regrets he connot respond personally to questions

Dial for a diagnosis

SOME IDEAS are so simple and radical, and their promise so great, that you wonder why no one has thought of them before. Such is the proposal being con-sidered by ministers for replacing GPs with nurses as patients' first point of contact. Under this plan, if you think

you need to see a doctor you will call a central NHS number where you will be able to talk to a nurse about your problem; the nurse will also book an appointment with your GP if necessary. Instead of dialling up the jurgery and getting through to a trosty receptionist who may not offer you an appointment with the GP for 10 days, under this scheme you would get instant advice, and your appointment made for you.

As reforms of the NHS go, this would have a greater and more direct impact on patients than anything introduced in the last 20 years. But the reaction to it is interesting. Every friend and colleague I have put if to in the last couple of days has responded with outrage. It is a bad idea, they say, because it would undermine the personal relationship with the famly doctor, it is clearly aimed at cutting costs by restricting access to GPs, and it would create huge NHS call centres in which patients would be known only by their serial numbers.

HEALTH CHECK



LAURANCE

Association, fierce defender of the personal relationship between patients and GPs, was enthusiastic. It could result in patients being seen "more appropriately" by GPs, said Dr Simon Fradd, chairman of the Doctor Patient Partnership. The Patients Association was equally supportive. Its chairman, Claire Rayner, a former nurse, said: "There is no suggestion that people will be prevented from seeing their GP What is being offered is instant advice and help, which will be infinitely more convenient."

But will the plan serve as a guide for patients, directing them to the most appropriate care (at home, with the GP or at the accident and emergency department), or will it in effect prevent them from obtaining the treatment they want?

The pilot scheme, to be run in Northumberland, will test The contrast with the rehow this is perceived. The NHS action of the professionals was striking The British Medical

Direct helpline service, on which it will be based, has proved hugely successful since its launch last year, but it is voluntary running in parallel with the GP and hospital service.

NHS Direct nurses deal with telephone queries from pat-ients following lists of questions drawn up by specialists. A survey has shown that 97 per cent of callers were satisfied, yet 40 per cent of them were advised to do something less than they had planned before they called, such as going to bed with a hot drink instead of calling out the GP. Twenty per cent were urged to do something more than they had planned

Both the BMA and the Patients' Association are clear that free access to GPs on demand must be preserved. If that can be guaranteed, there could still be substantial savings for the NHS from the 40 per cent of people who are seeking only the reassurance they need to look after themselves at home.

The introduction of telephone banking was resisted by those who said it meant the end of a personal service. For patients with personal difficulties or chronic conditions who see their GPs regularly, advice from a nurse may not be what they want or need. But for those with unexplained clinical symptoms seeking advice. I suspect that telephone medical care will prove as popular as

banking by remote control.

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THE WORD ON THE **STREET**



IT IS hard to believe that the BBC thinks it would be sued for libel by Guardian editor Alan Rusbridger – after all, he's so often been on the receiving end himself - so why did it edit out the funniest moment from the What the Papers Say Awards on Friday? As Mr Rusbridger went up to receive the Scoop of the Year ward for its Peter Mandelson home loan story, a loud Yorkshire harrumphing could be heard from the audience. The cameras even focused in on the harrumpher, Paul Routledge, sitting next to the ex-spin doctor, Charlie Whelan. But cut was his audible heckle as Rusbridger departed the stage with his heavy prize: "You ought to get six months for larceny," shouted Mr Routledge, showing that despite Mirror editor Piers Morgan's peace making with Rusbridger, The Mirror's political commentator still believes the Mandelson story was whipped from his book.

THERE IS no greater illustration of the media's ability to make much out of little than to compare the fuss about Routledge's book with the number of copies it has actually sold. According 982 copies up to 20 February. It has had another 10 days since then, so it may have blazed a trail into four figures by now.

NICE TO know that some newspaper headline writers remain as unreconstructed as ever. "Gordon Brown's former girifriend fights for her life" was the Mail on Sunday's headline over its Sheena McDonald story: Ms McDonald has hosted Channel 4 News, Right to Reply, and The Weck in Westminster, and is one of Britain's most respected political broadcasters. But being a woman, none of that is as important in defining her headline status as a relationship 20 years ago.

Mail goes down the Tube

chief of Associated Newspapers, exploding with the fury of a revivalist ping page proofs to shreds is a common one on the newsroom floor of the Daily Mail.

So when it happened three weeks ago few people took much notice. The next day's Mail was being remade in its usual way, it seemed. In fact, standing in the middle of the newsroom for all to see, Dacre was ripping up a dummy issue of Metro, Associated Newspapers' first newspaper launch for 17 years.

The destruction of the dummy effectively marked the end for Kim Chapman, formerly editor of the Reading Post, who arrived to edit *Metro* only last November. She was replaced as editor and offered the post of Metro's publisher, which she turned down, and then Dacre brought in some of his most trusted lieutenants from the Daily Mail to turn the paper around in time for its launch on 9 March. Alistair Sinclair, Dacre's deputy on the Mail, was given overall control of the project and Ian MacGregor, associate editor (news) and a rising star at the Mail, replaced Chapman as editor. Other executives drafted in from the Mail include Tim Jotischky, the paper's executive news editor.

What Chapman had failed to understand is that Metro is very much more than just a free regional newspaper for London.

Associated has highly successful newspapers, but it is still dependent on just three national titles. The cash generated by the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday and Evening Standard has not been used for company expansion, except for a few excursions into cable and new media. With the launch of Metro. Associated hopes to create a blueprint for a series of local free newspapers for Manchester. Newcastle and, perhaps, even New York

It also gives it another way to tackle what Associated calls "the problem in London". Despite massive investment in new sections and price-cutting, sales of the Evening Standard are stubbornly stagnant. Associated needs Metro to protect its position in London from rivals who may be tempted by the same freesheet idea.

The idea is not original According to legend, the new Lord Rothermere, then known as humble Jonathan Harmsworth and deputy managing director of the Evening Standard, was in Stockholm on a bitterly cold day when he couldn't get a taxi, so he jumped on to a tram. There he saw all the other passengers reading a newspaper that came

free from a display bin on the tram. The paper was produced by Sweden's Modern Times Group, so Associated head-hunted one of its directors, Thomas Grahl, to bring the idea to London. Modern Times was planning its own launch in London but, crucially, Associated Newspapers got to London Underground first. It signed an exclusive 10-year contract that promises the Under-







Most people travelling on the tube are relatively upmarket and young – just the kind of readers 'Metro' is looking for. Kim Chapman (top right) was replaced as editor as Paul Dacre (middle) Associated's editor-in-chief took firm control of Lord Rothermere's project (bottom) UPPA/Reading Evening Post/Gavin Kent

ground about £1.5m a year if the paper is a success. It also gets a page a day in the newspaper to promote its services and apologise for signal failures on the Northern Line.

place 1,000 newspaper bins in 261 stations on the Underground. It has bought access to many of the 2.7 million passenger journeys made every day on the Tube. Most of the people making those journeys are relatively upmarket and young - people who will be attractive to the advertisers Associated hopes will spend £13m a year on ads in Metro. As it tours advertising agencies, Metro's sales team is offering to refund advertisers' money if it does not hit a 90 per cent pick-up rate for its 350,000 print run.

The paper hopes to cash in not only on the arts and entertainment classified advertising that drives the Standard, but also on the relative dearth of colour display advertising sites in newspapers. Recent increases in production quality have driven many advertisers to demand colour pages in newspapers for their ads. Media buyers despair at the lack of availability of colour policies and investment in public

all-colour Metro hopes to mop up some of this demand.

its quality means thatn it will destroy the Evening Standard. Yet Associated seems to have been forced to going to go for that audience. do it because it was terrified someone else would sign up the In the world of fragmenting

ground can only become more at- a year, Metro's budget is less than tractive. The number of journeys on £10m a year for a five-day operation. The media buyers who have seen the Underground have increased by nearly 70 per cent since the early bled that someone was eventually sion of GMTV, celebrity-heavy, mid-

prising, given that it is to be a re-

pages to run their campaigns, so the transport get under way, the Under- Weekend section alone costs £13m

The Mail's newsmen have quickly to turn Metro into what dle-market and glamorous. It will be What was wrong with Chapman's stapled to make it-easy to read on dummy Metro was that it looked like the Tube, and its bite-sized stories a regional newspaper - hardly sur- should mean you can read all you

want of it on a 20-minute journey.

question of the Evening Standard. Ironically, London already had a "Metro" newspaper and it was published by Associated. For "Metro"

top right-hand corner of the first edition of the Evening Standard - an edition that was on the streets at 9am. It has now been renamed "News Extra". But still the Standard is worried. There is no question that Associated might want deliberately to damage its London paper, but given the frosty attitude that reportedly exists between Dacre and Max Hastings, the Standard's editor, there is probably at least some internal politics in Dacre's enthusi-

previous one. And then there is the

asm for the project. The mighty house of Harmsworth is not going to live or die by the success of an £8m investment in a free newspaper for the Tube, but dynasties are at their shakiest after a succession. Dacre and his favourite sons from the Daily Mail back bench have a reputation for excellence. Now they have to prove it once again, so that the new Lord Rothermere can show that the dynasty is safe in

What Chapman had failed to understand is that 'Metro' is meant to be very much more than just a free regional newspaper for London

media, mass audiences are becoming increasingly valuable, wherever they may be. TDI Inc, the American poster business that bought London Transport Advertising when it was privatised, has built an entire European business on the money that pours in from advertisers keen to hit the Underground's audience.

As car congestion gets worse and the Government's car taxation

gional newspaper, and was staffed and edited by regional newspaper journalists. The Moil troubleshooters found 22 relatively inexperienced reporters, working in very different conditions from those at

Associated's West London HQ. Metro has been deliberately sited in East London's Docklands, to avoid its being infected by the rest of Associated's culture of editorial largesse. Where the Moil's Saturday

The other important thing about Metro is that it is Lord Rothermere's first project. It has been his behy since the beginning, and is his op-portunity to prove that he can step into his father's shoes. For Paul Dacre, Metro is important for rea-

sons beyond its size and cost. Dacre wants to prove that his partnership with this Lord Rothermere can be as successful as Sir David English's partnership with the his hands.

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Switch is set to revolutionise your radio listening. Switch investors include national commercial services Talk Radio, Virgin Radio and global radio operator Clear Channel International.

Our initial application to the Radio Authority will be for the first London multiplex in May 1999. Switch will also apply for digital radio licences in other major UK regions.

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We are now looking to hear from prospective sound and data programme service providers. To confirm your interest in providing a service or to suggest a format to be considered please write to; Jason Bryant, Development Director, Talk Radio, 76 Oxford Street, London, W1N 0TR. Or e-mail me on jbryant@talk-radio.co.uk.

Closing date March 12th 1999

-make the switch-

FT seeks German readers

WALDEMAR SCHAEFER, joint editor of the German business daily Handelsblatt, did not sound especially nervous yesterday at the news that he would soon be competing against a German-language edition of the FT, complete with an English (but Germanspeaking) editor. He laughed: Is there space for them? I think they are going to find the competition is very strong."

If anybody yet knows when the new paper will be launched, or even what it will be called, they are not saying. Yesterday, the FT finally confirmed the open secret that the German FT was a definite runner. The new details are: it is to be printed on pink paper, and published in a joint venture with Gruner & Jahr, publisher of the established Capital economic and business monthly, and a subsidiary of Bertelsmann, Europe's largest media group; and start-up costs are estimated at DM170m. Schaefer thinks it will cost twice that.

The FT and their German allies are entering a torrid market. New publications have been launching in a flurry to attract Germany's expanding many for more than a decade. new class of equity investors. But it still sells only around Jahr). While the English-lan- in Britain.

ANALYSIS

who have proven a hungry an-dience for business news. This to 150,000 for Handelsblatt, year's launches have included Springer's Euro am Sonntag, a weekly newspaper, and the German regional press has also been bolstering business news coverage

But the German FT will be the biggest launch so far and a test of both Pearson and Gruner & Jahr's ability to succeed with a testing crosscultural and media joint venture. The newspaper is expected to be launched alongside a website which will be integrated with FT.com, the Financial Times Internet channel. It will be edited by Andrew Gowers, former deputy editor of the FT. It is expected to include both a strong business report as well as information orientated to investors, although this alone will not

distinguish it dramatically from Hondelsblott. The English-language FT has been published in Gerpublished in Düsseldorf.

By reputation, Germans

have not been excessively interested in business news, provided the mark in their pocket stayed strong. Their personal investments have traditionally been in boring, reliable bonds. But as the yields of fixed income investments have fallen, Germans have surprised many with the enthusiasm of their conversion to the joys of investing in shares. This has all recently been stimulated by the launch of the single European capital market denominated in the euro. The rush to serve this new market has in turn stimulated public interest. Publishers have swarmed to the honey pot. English only takes you so far

in Germany. Most Germans can make no more sense of an English-language newspaper than can most Britons cope with a weighty copy of Stern (also published by Gruner &

guage FT and the Wall Street Journal have been must-reads for bankers in Frankfurt and a handful of senior people, neither paper is relevant to most managers or investors. Half the FT's English-language circulation in Germany is said to be a bulk sale to Lufthansa.

The new launch will be a test for Handelsblatt, quintes organ of German capitalism. They are unlikely to prove a pushover. Its circulation has grown steadily but not spectacularly. Is it complacent in its market or ripe for new competition? Or are there only 150,000 people a day ready to buy a financial paper in Germany?

Pearson's objective is to command a portfolio of euro zone newspapers and web sites, including editions of the FT in English and German, Les Echos in France, and Exponsion in Spain. But their startup in Germany is more testing than the acquisition of established titles in France and Spain, which were simply a matter of establishing the right price. The FT's adventure in Germany will be a test of the pink 'un's fitness to rule business news in Euroland as it has

la Robin Cook was sake

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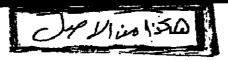
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Sexual prudes who decide the bottom line

ONLY THE foolish or the very young are opposed to all kinds of censorship. Parenthood, as I've learned, is a pretty continuous xercise in excision and

bowdlerisation. So we parents tend to look upon censors as our allies in the task of keeping highly profitable mayhem from overwhelming us. The alternative is the three-year-old, thought to have been happily occupied in front of Teletubbies, who was discovered eating its Rice Krispies to the accompaniment of Johnny Wadd's impressive ejaculations. Societies that expose kids to

So, in contrast to my student self, I am in favour of regulation; of bodies like the ITC; of documents like the BBC's producers' guidelines; and of individuals like our own Audreas Whittam Smith. Someone, after

pornography are bad societies.

all, has to take a view on what is and what isn't kosher.

And please spare me all the guff about "who are they to tell us what we can and cannot watch?". Civilisations have rules. You don't want rules? Go and live in Chechnya; watch all the porn you like, and open your post to find your mother's ear and a ransom note.

But I draw the line at the Broadcasting Standards Commission. This is the group of worthies collected together to investigate and to rule upon complaints submitted by members of the public. These may concern mistreatment at the hands of programme-makers, or may be about Mr Pootie's horror at being confronted by gay sex on his TV screen. In the latter sense, the BSC resembles nothing so much as a strange cross between The Daily Telegraph's letters



Censorship can be a good thing, argues David Aaronovitch, but not when led by public opinion

page and Sam Spade. With its entirely retrospective function, it is an institutional locker of stable doors after the horses have

Its usefulness as an arbiter of decency may be judged by how the BSC handled a complaint about the edition of This Morning with Richard and Judu of 16 October 1998. As the Commission succinctly put it in its latest bulletin, "a viewer complained about nudity and simulated sex". Since This Morning is transmitted some time between elevenses and lunch time on ITV, it is an

unusual vehicle for explicit material. So what happened? A man took his clothes off (though he apparently "kept his genitals covered"), and assaulted the al fresco weatherman by pretending to throw him into the water. I should explain that this

map of Britain A viewer. No genitals. No simulated sex. Not much of a case, you would have thought. Wrong, The commi concluded that, "while the man's actions had not been sexually explicit, the level of nudity had

particular forecaster usually

stands on a floating polystyrene

been unacceptable for the time of transmission". The BSC officially stamped the complaint "Upheld".

What on earth was meant by 'the level of nudity"? What are "acceptable" nudity levels, anyway? And acceptable to whom? If the man's genitals were invisible, was it his bottom that we were worried about? And who cannot "accept" bare bottoms at 11am? I bet that if they were African bottoms on a safari programme then no one provincial prudery of an antique sort. The commissioners are the sort of people who change their swimming costumes under layers of towelling rather than offend an anathetic world with a

There are 12 commissioners (of whom nine are women), including two Ladies, a

microsecond's flash of greying

Reverend, a Dame, a CBE, an OBE and a CB (whatever that is). It would be too easy to take the mickey out of the chairman, Lady Howe. But we may be

allowed to speculate that a woman in her sixties, married to an uncharismatic former chancellor of the exchequer, may be out of touch with those whose hormones still rage, and whose relationships are highly charged. But there again, it is possible, for aught we know, that Howe Towers makes the House of the Rising Sun look restrained.

Anyway, the difficulty with the BSC may be more to do with its function than its membership. It is there to adjudicate on complaints, not to take a proper view of what is good and bad on television. So it is always the letter-writing pudendaphobes whose laments are being considered. Very few people put

pen to paper (as well we might) to argue that there is in fact too little proper sex on television. and that "mudity levels" are far too low. There are no erections (even late), almost no masturbation (despite its universality), and very little good

Instead, we get endless programmes on the commodification of sex: male strippers, prostitution, sex shops, pornography, and leering teens on drunken bolidays in Corfu. These shows have practically replaced proper current affairs altogether, yet there is barely a whimper from the BSC, which is too busy going on about nudity.

Good censorship, I think, is about leading public opinion, not about reflecting it. Indeed, this rule is true of good anything. It's a lesson that needs relearning.

When Robin Cook was asked about attitudes to Germany on 'Today' it made headlines. But was it a fair question? By Rod Liddle

Sorry to mention the war

away, has done its work at night. For week now, the last thing I've seen before sleep brings its merciful release is the Foreign Secretary hovering above me; baleful, hurt and worse than these things - unquestionably in the right.

He's kept me awake each night and now the time has come to wash "ry hands, and to speak the truth. It's worth doing so in public because the Today programme last week is part of a much wider debate - about news management, spin doctors,

It began with Michael Naumann. the German Culture Minister, suggesting that Britain had made victory in the Second World War its "spiritual core"; that, in effect, we were an obsessed people. On the morning that these comments were reported, amid much outrage in Britain, we were due to talk to the Foreign Secretary about an arguably rather loftier issue - the launch of the Government's "green" foreign policy (or foreign-policy-with-a-

Towards the end of the interview Lar presenter Nick Robinson, at my request, asked Mr Cook for his views on Herr Naumann's thesis. His response was impeccably anodyne, weighed in at a succinct 11 seconds and was along the lines of: "I haven't mentioned the war in meetings with my German counterparts, and I won't do so in future." I'm paraphrasing, but that was the gist -

pretty harmless stuff.

uilt has gnawed seething, in so far as press officers can be said to seethe. Why had we diverged from our arrangement? Why hadn't we cleared the question with the Foreign Secretary? Outrageous behaviour, they raged, civilly.

I was inclined to laugh it off. What was the problem, after all? The programme surely must have some leeway when talking to the Foreign Secretary about what was, after all, a subject directly within his ambit. And the response was bland enough.

Eleven seconds, however, is a long time in politics. Three hours later, lined the story "Cook Backs Down over Germans!". I felt a brief spasm of contrition, but even then I hadn't expected the following day's

Next morning, the Foreign Secretary rang himself, in person, to share with me The Star's story headlined "Heil keep quiet!". He then moved to page one of The Daily Telegraph, where his 11-second response had been spread across four columns (plus editorial comment on page 23). The Mirror, meanwhile, began its account: "Basil Fawlty's catch phrase 'Don't mention the war' became official Government policy yesterday..." Mr Cook was irate, but still remarkably polite.

The galling thing for me was that he had predicted this very outcome the previous day, which I had laughed off as political over-sensitivity. After all, he couldn't possibly have answered the question in a blander, less controversial manner. I mean, even if Bill Cash were for-

eign secretary I doubt that he'd talk about the war very often during discussions with his German counter-The Foreign Office, however, was part. And only then under his breath.



Robin Cook's comment on Britain's obsession with the Second World War was blown out of all proportion by the press

he couldn't possibly have answered the question at all without landing to Government ministers on imhimself in hot water.

If he'd voiced my own response to Herr Naumann's comments - that we talk about the war just about enough, but that we should do so more loudly and with a thinly veiled aggression when German politicians tell us we shouldn't - then there would be an entertaining diplomatic incident, apologies and the whiff of resignation. There was, simply, nothing he could have said.

All Robin Cook wanted was advance notice of the subjects to be discussed during our interview; not the questions themselves, mind, just the areas of debate. Our response on these occasions is to harrumph and talk about editorial independence. and refuse to enter into negotiations.

But things are changing, and perhaps we should change with them. We talk about public accountability and the right of chal-

But this was Robin Cook's point: that lenging programmes such as Today politicians are less frequently made and that this allows the Government icians, with ourselves, and with the and The World at One to have access portant issues. At the same time, we are experiencing news management from the Government which

is subtler and more successful than

available at the crucial times. We may receive 10 offers of gov-

ernment ministers launching rammes, which very often they launched six months before; but they at any time I can remember. In a are mysteriously absent when actiatives are important and deserve crude sense this Government is cused of a policy U-turn, or involved a public forum, but there are times

to draw a line under what would have been a difficult issue. The next time that the minister is made availcomparatively small-change prog- able it may be on a much softer issue - we are back to the policy initiatives. We on Today still think the policy iniPaul Hackett

audience. Offering Robin Cook the chance to refuse to take a question about Herr Naumann offers us the option as to whether or not we should run the interview. Of course, in this instance we would.

There are other occasions when we wouldn't - and we should tell the audience when that happens. The spin doctors should look on it as a welcome adoption of the moral high ground; we'll be straight with you, but in return we expect to be able to examine, with rigour, ministers on thorny areas that they may not wish to confront in public. And when they refuse to answer or appear, we

should explain to the audience why. In the meantime, instead of shedding responsibility and blaming the Press when Today programme quotes get taken out of context, I apologise to Robin Cook.

The writer is editor of Radio 4's

I won't mention the war, says Cook America had just made the immensely successful film Saving Private Ryan and

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, tried to assuage

lack access to ministers, or to Downing Street. This Government is offensive in its relationships with the press rather than defensive. In fact, we carried six interviews with the Prime Minister in 1998, more than in any previous year - but there is the growing feeling that the crucial

German sersitivities yester and I can give an undertak by Oskar Lafontaine, the Saving Private Ryan and any by promising that he ing that we won't, said Mr German finance minister, for Italy was making one about the harmonisation of toxes the Holocaust.

more open than the last; we do not in a disagreement with colleagues, or party to financial shenanigans. Can you remember a single interview on Today - or Newsnight or The World Tonight - with Geoffrey

There is a feeling at those difficult times that they will appear on programmes that are less challenging,

interest for us to talk to ministers. and this is when the shutters come down. Not all Government departments are alike; it would be hard to find a more open minister than

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. And perhaps that's where we

MPs making the most out of Fleet Street

LAST MONDAY, at the height of the the Lawrence report, the House Of Commons witnessed a strange and surreal spectacle - a leading Tory MP flaunting his membership of a trade union. Sir Norman Fowler, Mr Straw's shadow, yelled across the despatch box a declaration that was as passionate as it was unfashionable: "I have been a member of the National Union of Journalists for the

past 35 years." Though Labour MPs emitted a collective "Ooch!" of mock admiration, it wasn't long before Gerald Kaufman was attempting to outflank Sir Norman with a similar boast of his membership of the NUJ. They may abhor the tactics. impulses and downright doggedness of the Fourth Estate, but the link between politicians and the tawdry trade. press is clearly as strong today as

Evidence of the increasing sym-

The latest register shows that more politicians are trying their hands at journalism. By Paul Waugh

cellor Nigel Lawson as "teenage tabloids. The two MPs each rake in from journalism is still held by Lord Foot entered the Commons on the correspondent for The Douby Telescribblers" is revealed in the new Register of Members Interests.

Down among the minutiae of declarations of gifts are to be found a series of entries from MPs proving that most are glad to take the shilling of Murdoch, the Mirror Group, Accountancy Age magazine, and indeed anyone else who will have them.

The majority of MPs simply refer to "occasional income from journalism" without specifying the media outlet they most favour, or the amount received. However, the register shows that some members make a very nice earner out of the

Joint top of the wages league are the formidable Tory Ann Widdecombe and Labour's "Gorgeous" biosis between Westminster and George Galloway, both of whom those dismissed by former Chan- have suffered at the hands of the

up to £55,000 a year by penning articles for newspapers. Two other high-earners are Frank Field, who gets up to £20,000 a year, and Alex £110,000 a year.

Salmond, who earns around £15,000.

Hattersley, a regular columnist with The Guardian, who in the 1997 register confessed to receiving up to The green benches are littered

Such sums may appear large, but with those who swapped one form BBC, Yvette Cooper at The Indethe all-time record for MPs' earnings of backery with another. Michael pendent, Julie Kirkbride was a lobby

back of editorships of both the London Evening Standard and Tribune; Sir Norman Fowler was a reporter on The Times; Ben Bradshaw and Martin Bell worked for the

groph; and Martin Linton wrote for The Guardian.

The pattern is repeated in government, with the Trade and Industry Ministers Brian Wilson and Michael Wills, the Welsh Secretary Alun Michael and, last but never least, the Spinmeister himself, Peter Mandelson, who famously earned his ciabatta crusts at LWT alongside John Birt,

The traffic until recently has almost always been one way, with Parliament somehow seen as an now an increasing number of MPs have spotted that they can make a decent living as columnists, diarists and even TV presenters should they ever end up on the dole. Matthew Parris, the former Tory MP, has made a highly successful transition to become The Times' Commons

sketch writer, while Michael Portillo has made a series of films for Channel Four

Lord Hattersley stresses that there is a distinction between professional journalists who return to their first love and those MPs who simply try their hand at it occasionally. "I actually regret that there are so few genuine writing MPs because politics and literature ought to go together," he said. "I think if they're good at it, the public don't mind. What the public don't like is politicis - trading on their fame and little else. Ken Baker's book on Conservative poets was an embarrassment and a flop. But if MPs can earn a bit of money from it, they will elevation from the grubby trade, but It keeps them off the streets, I

suppose. Maybe the reason for the switch over to journalism as a fall-back career is hidden in the frequent opinion polls that MPs read. They show that journalists are truly loathed by the public, but that they hate politi-

THE TOP EARNERS FROM JOURNALISM

(Lab. Middlesborough)

Regular column for Mail on Sunday financial section. Up to £15,000. Regular article for Accountancy Age. Up to £5,000. Patrick Cormack (Con. South Staffs) Editor of House Magazine. Up to

(Lab. Glasgow Kelvin) Regular column, Moil on Sun-Roseanna Cunningham day. Up to £55,000.

Alex Salmond Weekly column for the Scottish (SNP Banff and Buchan) Mirror. Up to £20,000. Weekly racing column, The Herold. Weekly column in News of the Frank Field (Lab. Birkenhead) World. Up to £15,000. Regular column for Sunday Peo-Ann Widdecombe ple. Up to £20,000. George Galloway

(Con. Maidstone and the Weald) Six programmes for Channel 4. Up to £15,000. Weekly column for the Sunday Express. Up to £40,000 for six months.

Michelin honours poetic chef of Auvergne

finds inspiration - and wild herbs - while running in his native hills in the southern Auvergne won the highest accolade in French cookery

Michel Bras, 52, was given the coveted third Michelin star for his mountain-top, hotelrestaurant near Laguiole, 3,700ft up in the Aveyron hills of south-western France.

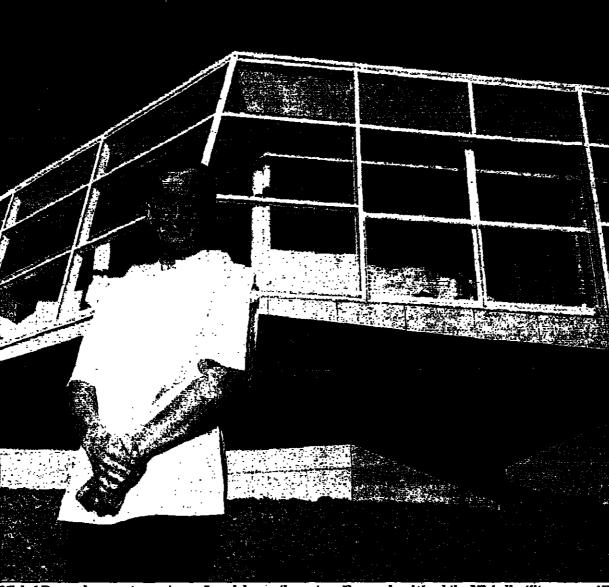
His elevation by the 1999 Michelin Guide marks a possibly deliberate - turning away from the globe-trotting, superstar chefs who have made the gastronomic news in France in recent years. Mr Bras, who learnt cooking lat coulant" (Biscuit of melted mostly from his mother, specialises in elaborate versions of regional dishes and rarely strays from home territory.

Bespectacled and given to poetic utterances. Mr Bras is known, to his annovance, as the "herbalist" of French cooking. His use of wild and of bread between courses. unusual plants, such as meadow-sweet, started a cheap, are reasonable com-

herbal trend among betterknown, and more expensive, restaurants in the big cities.

in the mountains and it is from these runs that I harvest ideas and emotions," he said last week, when news of his probable enoblement by Michelin leaked out. "That's how I discovered meadow-sweet. I still clearly remember the circumstances of this encounter - the sky, the light and that leaden scent, heavy with honey."

Mr Bras is best known for two dishes. "Biscuit de chocochocolate) and "Gargouillou de jeunes legumes" (which means, literally, a gargling or bubbling of young vegetables). His restaurant maintains the informality of a country inn: customers are invited to clean their knife and fork on a piece Prices, although hardly



Michel Bras, whose restaurant near Laguiole, south-western France, has joined the Michelin élite

or three-star restaurants. A lunchtime menu, eaten while enjoying panoramic views over the hills, costs £22. A dinner menu costs £66.

Mr Bras bemoans the cost of gastronomic meals in the swankier. Michelin-starred restaurants in large cities, which charge up to £150 a

pared with those of most two- head for their cheapest menu. he learnt to love food at the sous-Vézelay was demoted to By finding his inspiration in kitchen table during his child- two stars. Britain has the nature, Michel Bras says he hood. If he wasted a piece of same three, three-star restaubread, he would be rapped rants as last year. hopes to express through his food "a climate, a freedom of across the knuckles. expression, a sense of won-

derment, a joie de vivre". He compares his cooking to jazz other chef was promoted to "for its architecture ... its fluid elegance, its silences". More prosaically, he says L'Espérance at Saint-Père- by a small Michelin man.

The main innovation of this He joins 20 other three-star year's guide, published tomorrestaurants in France. No row, is the inclusion of 30 Paris restaurants in the category of the premier division this year, inexpensive but wholesome but one. Marc Meneau, of the regional restaurants, marked

At last, a good hairdresser

STREET LIFE SAMOTECHNY LANE

have had the faith and cour- as pate de fois gras. age to bunch new businesses. tures are tentatively emerging from under snow.

Lane area, one is a new hairdressing salon: Before Alexander opened "Persona Lab", we all used to go to Aunt Lyuda's. She may have been a wizard at dyeing the beehives of the local female trolley-bus drivers. But she always made a mess of my simple bob. Then I would go to some flashy haunt of the New Russians and pay \$100 (£65) to have my hair "corrected. Outrage at the price, however, would mean that next time I was back with the trolley-bus drivers, trusting my hair to the cheap and cheerful Lynda.

Alexander now offers an exit from that vicious circle. Just before Christmas, he opened a salon giving the kind of cuts he learnt while studyleast, can afford. He economised on decor - the walls are white – to concentrate on stylish cutting. "Everything was Who could afford those inflated prices?" Now he has a steady stream of clients. able to pay the equivalent of \$30, and is feeling optimistic.

Belinda. It used to be the biggest supermarket in the area and, frankly, was a bad joke. You had to be a masochist to shop there. The prices for the imported groceries were astronomical, yet the service was positively abusive.

When the rouble plunged, a funny thing happened. For two short weeks in September, Belinda, which still had stocks at old prices, became the cheapest shop in the area. Word spread quickly. Poor housewives flocked there to stock up on rice and macaroni

SINCE LAST August's eco- and try perhaps for the first nomic crash, some Russians time, more exotic items such

When the last goods were It would be an exaggeration to sold off, Belinda went out of say the spring of recovery has business. Since then, a lot of arrived. Rather, a few ven- renovation has been going on. Last week, Italian leather like snowdrops pushing up solas went in Then shelves with cheap mugs, washing Of two in the Samotechny powder and shampoo appeared. What was going on?

I walked in. A young assistant called Dima greeted me with a smile. In the back, I met Maria Belova, the equally welcoming manageress. "Down black alsatian at her side. He was not a guard dog, she said, but a stray she had found injured and adopted. The atmosphere in the shop had certainly become friendlier.

What gave Ms Belova, who used to work in a Russian jewellery factory and also lived for a while in London, the confidence to open her own store after other entrepreneurs had been bitten? "We can't just sit and accept that our country is going down the drain. We have to try again."

Ms Belova, smart in a ing in Loudon, at prices that black and white hound-tooth middle-class · Russians, at checked suit, said lessons had been learnt from the crisis. "Businesses should not try to make too much money too fast. They should deal with overblown before," he said. reliable partners. And they should be flexible."

She went on to explain how she was creating a minidepartment store, with a range of goods from expensive Further down the road is furniture to the cheapest household items. "We will watch and see what is popular. Later we might concentrate on one thing or another'

So far, customers are looking at the sofas as if they were museum pieces but they are snapping up the floral mugs at 60 roubles (£2) each. "International Women's Day is coming up on 8 March," said Ms Belova. "For husbands wanting a change from the regulation three red tulips, the mugs make nice little presents for

Kosovar villagers flee Yugoslav military

YUGOSLAV SOLDIERS and BY EMMA DALY police appear to be clearing vil- in Gajre lages in Kosovo along the bor-Albanian inhabitants

About 5.000 villagers, fearing military attack, have fled their for temporary shelters. homes in the past few days, seeking refuge across the borbours. Many, however, are from the province's capital,

der with Macedonia of their borders of Kosovo. In one gully, Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) women and children waited as their men cut down branches

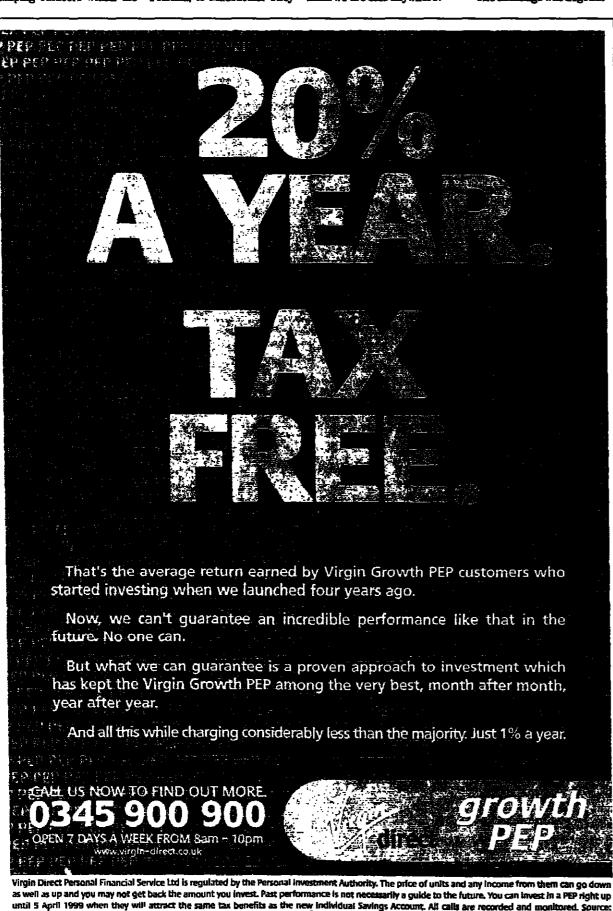
from the village of Gajre, close

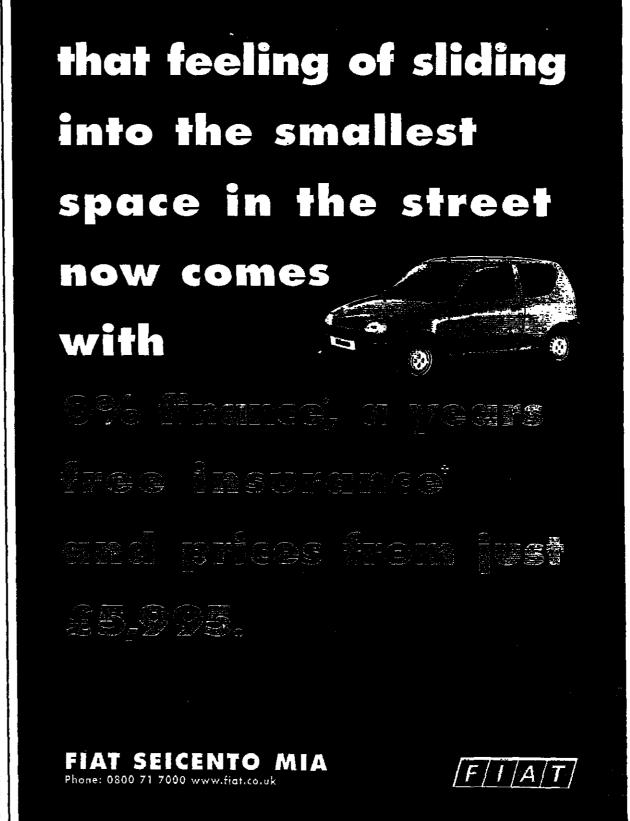
ond night in the snow. Back in the village, rebel fighters from the patrolled the streets, but few civilians remain, Ismet Calaku. who returned yesterday to find The group of 300 had come the body of his brother - presumably shot dead by Yugoslav der with friends and neigh- to the main road leading south forces attacking the village said: "Where can we go? Do you

of Velika Hoca, international mediators succeeded in preventing a feared attack by the Serb security forces, after the murder of a Serb civilian, KLA members yesterday handed over the body of the Serb, who was taken hostage last week. They released his companion, who had been badly beaten.

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Both Serbs were from Velika Hoca, a ingredient in securing accep-Serb enclave on a hill held by the KLA. The two were kidnapped after the seizure last week of three Albanians, two of whom were found dead yesterday. ■ The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, who begins a three-day visit to Russia today will at-

contribute troops to Kosovo something seen as a crucial tance by the Yugoslay President, Slobodan Milosevic, of a foreign peace keeping force. But Mr Cook will have to overcome Russian hostility to the overall Nato command of the force demanded by alliance





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NEW FILMS

LOVED (15) Director: Erin Dignam

Starring: Robin Wright Penn, William Hurt

Erin Dignam's Loved has been collecting dust on subtly unclassifiable, so removed from the stock methods of tackling its volatile subject matter. Robin Wright Penn stars as an abused ex-girlfriend Ecalled upon by William Hurt's lawyer to testify against her brutal former boyfriend. Yet Loved deliberately evades the hectoring quality that fuels so many TV movies. Instead, it paints charged and troubled relationships for what they are: complex, personal and inextricably entwined.

PAINTED ANGELS (15) Director: Jon Sanders

West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

Starring: Kelly McGills, Brenda Fricker The angels are whores; the paint from the gloomier end of the palette. Jon Sanders' revisionist western revolves around a frontier brothel presided over by Brenda Fricker's no-nonsense madam. Earthy, naturalistic acting goes hand in hand with Gerald Packer's evocative visuals, though the downbeat handling makes it slow going at times. West End: ABC Piccadilly, Renoir

PERDITA DURANGO (18) Cu Director: Alex De La Iglesia

Starring: Rosie Pérez, Javier Bardem Wild at Heart is a strutting Tex-Mex caper, tequila-ed to the gills and running on a kind of posturing wackiness. Rosie Pérez acquits herself Bardem simply glowers from beneath a cornedy wig. It's camp, garish and annoyingly entertaining, West End: Clapham Picture House, Metro, Odeon. Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket

THE THIN RED LINE (15) Director: Terrence Malick Starring: Sean Penn. Nick Noite See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Odeon Leicester Square

TITANIC TOWN (15) Director: Roger Michell Starring: Julie Walters, Nuala O'Neill

All aboard for Troubles-hit Belfast, circa 1972. The distributors' shelves for nearly two years now. Not IRA and British forces are taking potshots at each because it's had, one imagines, but because it's so other. Civilians are dying in the crossfire. Julie Walters's local mum lobbies for a ceasefire and is caught between the opposing factions. Michell's factbased fable is well-intentioned, but it's faintly lightweight, too. For a film implicitly about rage, waste and human passions, it's low on dramatic comph. West End: ABC Swiss Centre. Local: Kilburn Tricycle Cinema

> URBAN LEGEND (18) Director: Jamie Blanks

Starring: Jared Leto, Alicia Witt

As 1978's Halloween spawned a crop of shabby wannabes, so Wes Craven's Screem is siring its own breed of movie runts. Exter Urban Legend, Blanks's stalk-and-slash romp, which clones Screom's tics, twists and in jokes in much the same way that its campus killer mimics the crimes of popular myth. The result is strangely bland and inconsequential. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG) **Director:** Nora Ephron

Starring: Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan Riffing off her earlier, more assured Sleepless in Alex De La Iglesia's quasi sequel to David Lynch's Seattle, Ephron ushers seasoned pros Hanks and Ryan through a contrived romantic comedy that's zapped out of its old-fashioned rut by a shrewd Internet plot book. Hanks and Ryan squabble in well as the vixenish heroine who abducts a pair of daily life and get all gooey on-line, resulting in a all-American virgins, while Live Flesh's Javier brewthat is soft, shadgy and just slightly on the turn. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket,

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Thin Red Line (15)

Terrence Malick returns to the screen after a 20-year absence with a hugely ambitious film about the battle of Guadalcanal. A war movie of a sort, though what that sort might be is uncertain.

Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) (PG) Roberto Benigni directs and stars in this tragicomic fable about an Italian Jew who tries to shield his boy from the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp by pretending that it is an elaborate game.

Shakespeare in Love (15) This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for Romeo and Juliet. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

A Bug's Life (U)
Less sophisticated and more child-friendly than Antz, this animated feature (right) spins an enjoyable yarn about an ant colony and its battle to survive. Kevin Spacey provides the voice of the chief grasshopper.

Affliction (15) Paul Schrader's bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism, adapted from Russell Banks's novel, stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad (James Coburn).

ANTEONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

(Royal Court at The Ambassador's, London) So you thought that the comic fascination of a mass-production bakery in 1970s Hull was somewhat limited? Richard Bean's delightfully funny play proves you wrong. To 6 Mar

Copenhagen (Duchess Theatre, London)

Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation (right). To 7 Aug

Oklahoma! (Lyceum Theatre, London) Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Num's glorious production of the Rodgers and Hammersteinclassic fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 Jun

The Winter's Tale (RSC, Stratford) An amazingly rich and complex performance from Antony Sher in Gregory Doran's Romanov-style production. In rep to 4 Mar

Hushabye Mountain (Gardner Arts Centre, Brighton) Dying of Aids and living with Aids: Jonathan Harvey's witty, sad and uneven new play looks at the disease in two eras. To 6 Mar

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Monet in the 20th Century (Royal

Academy) He lived until 1926. The gardens and lily ponds at Giverny dissolve into

elemental visions: fiery lights, haze, liquid reflections, voids and depths. The strange last works of Impressionism (right). To 18 Apr

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery) Some of the most intense portraiture ever. Women: exquisite mélanges of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. To 25 Apr

Patrick Caulfield (Hayward Gallery) The modern-object world made luminous. Caulfield is a virtuoso of many styles, and this retrospective offers the range - notably, those fat, laconic outlines flooded with translucent colour. To 11 Apr

Peter Doig & Udomsak Krisanamis (Fruitmarket, Edinburgh)

Two painters collaborate. Doig's sizzling, curdling, overloaded landscapes mix with Krisanamis's collages of cultural detritus and noodles. To 27 Mar

Aubrey Beardsley (Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool) Drawings, prints and posters from the short and brilliant career of the 1890s aesthete and illustrator, with uniquely sinuous, florid line. To 11 Apr

TOM LUBBOCK

See The Independent Recommends, above.

If nothing else, this computer-animated trifle is surely the most unlikely Woody Allen movie we will ever see. Repertory: Prince Charles. And local cinemas

BUFFALO 66 (15)

As promising as it is, Vincent Gallo's film about an ex-con (played by himself) who kidnaps a dancer (Christina Ricci) in order to convince his to its influences. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

A BUG'S LIFE (U)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

BULWORTH (18)

Warren Beatty's satire is crude and condescending on occasion, yet genuinely audacious and committed, too, West End: Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART (PG) This arthritic antique of a romantic weepie

wheezes on towards a finale so predictable that you'd have to be dead not to see it coming. West End: Odeon Kensington, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch. Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

HIDEOUS KINKY (15)

Through the teeming orange/red/turquoise backdrop of 1970s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's hippie single mum, her two daughters unwillingly in tow. Winslet does well with a change-of-pace role as the tale's permanently strung-out, unsated matriarch and the child stars are startlingly good. West End: Curzon Soho, Curzon Minema, Cideon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's warts-andall biopic of the Du Pre sisters. West End: Curson Soho, And local cinemas

Jeff Goldblum plays Ricky a scuzzball TV executive. Fearful for his job, Ricky uses spiritual wanderer G (Eddie Murphy) as a frontman on his shopping show and sales go through the roof. G, in turn. teaches Ricky a few soulful lessons; you know, about life and stuff. Parts of Holy Man are very funny but the film never quite finds the right tone. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15) Essentially this is Shirley Volentine with an Afro-American spin but Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the slide-show of tourist-brochure visuals. West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

I THINK I DQ (15)

GENERAL RELEASE

Ah, the wedding caper. An excuse for reunions, West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Chelsea for an ensemble cast, for the tensions of etiquette against emotion. Writer-director Brian Sloan ticks all the right boxes during this spry babyboomer outing, and yet it's too hyperactive and ingratiating. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

JACK FROST (PG)

The respective trajectories of two stars meet in this out-of-season Yuletide caper. On the way down goes Michael Keaton as a self-obsessed blues-man who dies and is reincarnated as a snowman. And on the way up is The Full Montu's Mark Addy as his salt-of-the-earth best mate. Formula fun is had parents that he is married, doesn't measure up by all. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village West End. And local cinémas

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG) See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema. Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, And local cinemas

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Bracing black comedy. Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push it through to the final curtain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Virgin Fulham Road, Repertory: Riverside Studios Cinema. And local cinemas

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

Don Roos's harum-scarum trip through American gender politics leans heavily on a fire-cracker performance from Christina Ricci as the dastardly teen whose precocious antics send the adults (Martin Donovan, Lisa Kudrow) into a state. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

What sustains π is the pure-blood ingenuity of its central conceit, its ongoing "mathematics is the language of nature" mantra and the louche, toocool-for-school demeanour. It all adds up. West End: ABC Panton Street

PRACTICAL MAGIC (12)

Essentially a sibling soap-opera with a dash of mumbo-jumbo, Practical Magic sees Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman cast as two mismatched sisters raised from a line ofwitches. West End: Warner Village West End

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15) See The Independent Recommends, above.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street. Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18)

A cast of Britain's finest (Kathy Burke, Ian Hart, Doug Henshall et al) weave to and fro through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance. Kane's screenplay is generally witty and well-observed but the film cranks what might have been a sublime one-hour teleplay into double its natural length. Still, that's modern romance for you. You can't fit it into tidy boxes. West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odean Swiss Cottage, Odean West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarkes,
Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West
(0870-902 0404) © Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm. 5.15pm.
8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels 1.15pm.
3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm My
Name is Joe 6.20pm, 8.40pm x
(Pi) 1.30pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm,
8.45pm

ABC PICCADILLY

CINEMA

WEST END

(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) + Piccadilly Circus Hamam: The O1/1-20/ 4522 (norm 1971) Secondly Circus Hamans. The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 6.15pm Painted Angels 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm There's Something About Mary 3.35pm,

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Affliction 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Loved 1.35pm, ipm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0870-902 0403) 9 Leicester
Square/Piccadilly Circus Buffalo
66 4pm, 8.40pm Hotel du Nord
1.40pm, 6.30pm 1 Think I Do
1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm,
7.10pm, 9.10pm Titanic Town
2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm,
8.55pm La Vie Revée des Anges
1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm,
8.25pm 3.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) & Tottenham 4.05pm, 6.45pm Little Voice 9pm Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm You've

9.15pm Barbican Screen (0171-638 8891) & Barbican This Year's Love 6pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@II 6pm, 8.40pm

Got M@il 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm,

HELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) ◆ Sloane Square 1.35pm, 3.55pm .20pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 3323)

O Capham
Common A Bug's Life 1.45pm,
4.10pm La Vita è Bella 6.40pm,
9.10pm Perdita Durango 9.30pm
(+ Short: Grandpa) Shakespeare
in Love 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 7pm
This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4.20pm,
6.50pm, 9.10pm (+ Short: Turnel
of Love) You've Got M@4
1.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) & Green Park La Vita è Bella 1 pm. 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

URZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) & Hyde Park Corner/Knightsbridge Hideous Kinky 3pm, 5pm. 7pm, 9pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12noon-6pm)) Court Road Hideous Kinky
 Leicester Square/fottenham
 Court Road Hideous Kinky
 L45pm. 4.15pm. 6.45pm. 9pm
 Hillary and Jackle 1.30pm. 4pm.
 6.30pm. 9.15pm Your Friends
 and Neighbors 1.15pm. 3.15pm.
 5.15pm. 7.15pm. 9.20pm. 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

EMPIKE LEICESTER SOUARE

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) ⊕ Notting Hill Gate La Vita è Bella 4.05pm, 5.30pm, 8.55pm La Vie Re les Anges 1.50pm

METRO (0171-734 1506) & Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square Perdita Durango 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Your Friends and Neighbors 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) & Notting Hill re bu 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(08705-050007) & Camden Town A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.20pm, 40pm, 6.50pm Little Voice 8.50pm Perdita Durango 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.45pm Shakespeare in Love 12.15pm, 2.55pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm This Year's Love 12.55pm, 3.25pm, 6.05pm, 9pm You've Got M@II 12.25pm. 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm

ODEON HAYMARKET 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON KENSINGTON ODEON KENSINGTON
(08705-050007) & High Street
Kensington A Bug's Life 11.45am,
2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm,
9.45pm Don't Go Breaking my
Heart 2.40pm, 5pm, 7.20pm,
9.40pm La Vita è Belia 1.40pm,
4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm
Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm,
3.25pm, 6.27pm, 9.15pm, This 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm This Year's Love 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm You've Got M@ll 12.45pm, 3.40pm, 6.35pm,

ODEON LEICESTER SOUARE (08705-050007) & Leicester Square The Thin Red Line 12,40pm, 4,10pm, 7,45pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH ODEON MARBLE ARCH (08705-050007) & Marble Arch A Bug's Life 1.55pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm Enemy of the State 12.40pm, 3.25pm, 6.15pm, 9.05pm Shakespeare In Love 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm This Year's Love 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm You've Got M@il 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm

ODEON MEZZANINE 3.55pm, 6.20pm Lock, Scotk & Tiwo Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm The Siege 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm. 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 6.55pm Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 1pm, Loathing in Las Vegas 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 9pm Shakespeare in Love 2.55pm, 5.40pm. Stepmom 1.20pm. 12.55pm This Year's Love 12.55pm, 3.25pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm Your Friends and Neighbors 4pm, 8.55pm You've Got M@N 12.15pm, 2.45pm. 5.30pm, 8.15pm

ODEON WEST END ODEON WIES) ETAIL (08705-050007) & Leicester Square Little Voice 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm, This Year's Love 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA Circus Everest 4.45pm, 9.05pm L5 (IMAX) 2.40pm, 7pm T-Resc Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

PLAZA (0990-888990) © Piccadilly Circus Babe: Pig in the City 12.40pm A Bug's Life 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 3pm, 7.30pm Star Tirek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 8.30pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) & Russell Square Affliction 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Painted Angels 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

RITZY CINEMA *RITZY CINEMA
(0171-733 2229) BR/Ø- Brixton A
Bug's Life 1.50pm. 4pm. 6.05pm.
8.10pm The City 7pm (+ O & A)
La Vita è Bella 1.45pm. 4.15pm.
6.45pm. 9.15pm Shakespeare in
Love 2pm. 4.25pm. 6.50pm.
9.25pm This Year's Love 2.15pm.
4.35pm. 6.55pm. 9.10pm. Three 4.35pm; 6.55pm, 9.10pm Three 3.30pm, 9.25pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) ⊕ Baker Street Shakespeare in Love 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm You've Got M@# 3.35pm,

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) • Highbury & 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) & Belsize Park La Vita è Bella 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm. 9.15pm

UCI WHITELEYS

7.10pm, 9.40pm Hideous Kinky 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm La Vita è Bella 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Madeline 1.20pm The Opposite of Sex 9.55pm The Prince of Egypt 10,45am Shakespeare in Love 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm Stepmom 3.30pm, 6.4Spm This Year's Love 1pm. 3.50pm. 6.20pm. 9.10pm Urban Legend 2.30pm. 4.50pm. 7.20pm, 9.40pm You've Gos M@ff

12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm

Virgin Chelsea (0870-907 0710) Sloane (0870-907 0710) Stoare Square/South Kensington A Bug's Life 12.25pm, 2.35pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm La Vita è Bella 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 9pm This Year's Love 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.20pm You've Got M@ll 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD
(0870-907 0711)
South
Kersington Hideous Kinky
2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm
Lictle Voice 1.30pm, 3.40pm,
6.20pm, 8.30pm The Opposite of
Sex 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm,
8.50pm Shakespeare in Love
1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm
Urban Legend 2.10pm, 4.30pm,
7pm, 9.30pm You've Got M@II
1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

Vitto Parkinshicht (1870-1970) OP Piccadilly Circus La Vita è Bella 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm Perdita Durango 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Vou've Got M@ā 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm RIGIN TROCADERO

VIRGIN HAYMARKET

(0870-907 0715) & Piccadilly Circus A Bug's Life 12.50pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.10pm Bulworth 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm Enemy of the State 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Hoty Man 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Shakespeare in Lowe 12noon, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Urban Legend 12,50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@ll 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) O Leicester

Square A Bug's Life 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7pm Don't Go 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7pm Don't Go Breaking my Heart 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm Holy Man 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Jack Frost 11.50pm, 2.05pm The Opposite of Sex 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Practical Magic 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.55pm Urban Legend 11.55am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 3.6.50pm, 9.10pm Very Bad Thines 1.40pm, 6.55pm Urusu segam 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 5 6.50pm, 9.10pm Very Bad Things 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm You've Got M@R 12noon, 1pm, 2.50pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.20pm, 9.35pm.

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) & Park Royal A Bug's Life 12.05pm. 1.10pm. 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.45pm. 5.50pm, 7.05pm. 8pm, 9.25pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 6.35pm Holy Man 1.55pm. 4.35pm. 7.15pm, 9.45pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 7pm, 9.55pm Jack Frost 2.05pm. 4.20pm Madeline 12.40pm, 2.45pm. 4.50pm Shake-speare in Love 1.15pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm Stepmonn 8.45pm This Year's Love 12.15pm, 2.40pm. 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 9.05pm Urban Legend 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm. PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE Legend 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm You've Got M@il 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON (08705 050007) & High Barnet A Bug's Life 2.20pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9pm Hilary And Jack-ie 12.30pm, 6pm Littie Voice te 12.30pm, opm Little Voice 3.15pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 9.45pm, 6.30pm, 9pm You've Got M@B 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

BECKENHAM ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Beckenham Junction A Bug's Life 1pm. 3.45pm. 6.15pm Little Voice 8.50pm Nighty Aphrodite 11am. 6.20pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.55pm, 8.30pm You've Got M@il 1.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm

ONEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bexleyheath A Bug's Life 1,15pm, 2,05pm, 3,30pm, 4,15pm, 5,40pm, 6,50pm, 7,50pm, 9,50pm Enemy of the State 9pm Holy Man 12.30pm, 3.05pm, 9.50pm La Vita è Belia 1.25pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm,

BEXLEYHEATH

9.25pm Little Voice 5.30pm, 7.35pm Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Stepmom 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm This Year's Love 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm Urban Legend 12.45pm, 2.55pm, 5.10pm, 7.25pm, 9.45pm You've Got M@fl 1.30pm. 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

BROMLEY **ODEON** (08705 050007) BR: Bromley North/Bromley South A Bug's Life 2.10pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9pm.Shakespeare in Love 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm This Year's Love 1.25pm 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm You've Got M@ll 12.20pm, 3pm, 5,45pm, 8.30pm

CATFORD ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford A Bug's Life 6pm Shakespeare In Love 2.30pm, 8.20pm You've Got M@il 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR: West/East Croydon Hilary And Jackle 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon A Bug's Life 5.40pm Lit-tle Voice 5.45pm, 8.10pm Step-mom 5.30pm, 8.15pm Zakhm 8pm

CROYDON

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon A Bug's Life 2.30pm, 3.40pm, 4.50pm, Life 2.30pm, 3.40pm, 4.50pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm Holy Man 7.20pm, 9.50pm Jack Frost 2.40pm, 5pm Madeline 3.50pm Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Stepmom Gpm, 8.50pm This Year's Love 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.40pm Urban Legend 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.05pm You've Got M@il 1.10pm, 4.0m, 6.40om, 9.20om

4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm DAGENHAM WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) & Dagenham Heathway A Bug's Life 2pm, 2.40pm, 4.10pm, 4.50pm, 6.20pm, 7pm, 8.30pm, 9.10pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 7.10pm Hoty Man 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Jack Frost 2.40pm, 4.50pm Little Voice 9.20pm Madeline 2pm, 4pm Shakespeare in Love 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.40pm Stepmorn 6.10pm, 8.50pm This Year's Love 2.40pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm Urban Legend 3pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm, 9.50pm Urban Legend 3pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-9070719) BR/O Ealing Broadway A Bug's Life 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.55pm Shakespeare in Love 2.30pm. 5.20pm, 8.20pm This Ye 9.20pm You've Got M@II 2.20pm. 5.40pm, 8.50pm

EDGMARE
BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) ←
Edgware A Bug's Life 2.10pm,
4.15pm, 6.15pm Daag Phone for
times Hody Man 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Kachche Dhaage Phone for times Ruch Kuch Hota Hai Phone for times Aa Ab Laut Chalain Phone for

EDMONTON

LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 2.15pm, 3.05pm, 4pm, 4.45pm, 5.35pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm, 8.15pm, 9pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 5.50pm, 8.10pm, 10.30pm Enemy of the State 10 15pm Hoty Man of the State 10.15pm Holy 7.25pm, 10.05pm How Stella Her Groove Back 6.40pm, 9.25pm, Jack Frost 1.10pm, 3.40pm Kachche Dhaage 6pm La Vita è Bella 2.55pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 9.35pm Madeline 2.45pm, 5pm Shakespeare in Love 1.05pm, 3,50pm, 6,50pm, 9.15pm Stepmom 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.55pm This Year's Love 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Urban Legend 2.35pm, 5.20pm, 7.40pm, 9.55pm You've Got M@il 1.20pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.45pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) O Elephant & Castle The Acid House 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm A Bug's Life 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Hideous Kinky 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (UTS) 867 0555) BR: Feitham A Bug's Life 11am. 1.10pm, 2.15pm, 3.20pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Daag 3.15pm, 7.40pm Holy Man 11.10am, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm Hum Aapke Dli Mein Rente Hain 11.15am. 2.45pm, 6pm, 9.25pm Kachche Dhaage 11am. 2.40pm. 6.05pm, 9.30pm Kaun 1.30pm, 10.10pm Aa Ab Laut Chalain 11.10am, 2.35pm, 6.15pm, 9.45pm La Vita è Bella 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm Little Volce 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.20pm Shakespeare in Love 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm Shatthed-E-Mohabbat 12noon, 6.45pm Stepmom 11,15am, 2pm, 4,45pm, 7,30pm This Year's Love 11,30am, 7.30am. 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm Urban Legend 12.05pm, 2.25pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm You've Got M@ii 11.10am. 1.50pm, 4.25pm, M@ii 11.10am. 1.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.35pm Zakhm 11.40pm

NORTH FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) & Finchley Central A Bog's Life 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 5.20pm, 7.40pm, 10pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 6.30pm Holy Man 6.20pm, 9pm Jack Prost 1.30pm, 4pm La Vita è Bella 2pm, 7pm, 9.45pm Madeline 1.50pm, 4.05pm Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm Stepmom 8.50pm This

9.30pm Urban Legend 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm You've Got

M@X 2.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm

FINCHLEY ROAD FINCHLEY ROAD
WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604
3059) & Finchley Road A Bug's Life
1pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
Don't Go Breaking My Heart
2.10pm, 7.30pm Holy Man 1.50pm,
4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm The Opposite of Sex 12.40pm, 3pm,
5.20pm, 7.40pm, 10pm Shakespeare in Love 12.50pm, 3.40pm,
5.20pm, 9.20pm, Stepmon

6.30pm, 9.20pm Stepmom 4.30pm, 9.50pm This Year's Love 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm Urban Legend 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm You've Got M@II 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.15pm, 9pm

> GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 1724) & Golders Green You've Got M@il 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm GREENWICH

CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich A Bug's Life 4.45pm, 6.45pm Shakespeare in Love 8.40pm This Year's Love 4.10pm. 6.30pm, 8.50pm You've Got M@il 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 11pm HAMPSTEAD

ABC (0870-9020413) & Beistze Park A Bug's Life 4pm. 6.20pm Shakespeare in Love 2.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm This Year's Love 1.25pm, 8.30pm You've Got M@il 2pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm **HAMMERSMITH**

Vertility (08/0-90/0/18) & Raven-scourt Park/Hammersmith A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm Shake-speare in Love 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm This Year's Love-9pm Urban Legend 1pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm You've Got M@fl 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303) O Harrow on the Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone Fire 8.45pm Hum Aap-ke Dil Mein Rehte Hain 5pm Hu Tu Tu 1.30pm, 5pm Zakhm 1.30pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) → Harrow on the Hill A Bug's Life 11am. 12.30pm, 1.20pm, 3pm, 3.45pm. 5.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm. 9.10pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 6.40pm Holy Man 12.40pm. 3.15pm Jack Frost 11.40am, 2pm 4.20pm La Vita è Bella 6pm, 8.40pm Madeline 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.40pm Shakespeare in Love 10.55am, 1.35pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.50pm Stepanom 7.10pm, 9 40cm This Year's Love 1.30cm 4.10pm. 6.50pm, 9.30pm Urban Legend 1.40pm, 4pm. 6.10pm, 9pm Very Bad Things 8.50pm You've Got M@il 12.20pm, 3.25pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm

HOLLOWAY HOLLOWAY

ODEON (08705 050007) & Holloway Road/Archway A Bug's Life 12.05pm, 12.30pm, 1.05pm, 2.10pm, 2.40pm, 3.25pm, 4.15pm, 4.50pm, 6.40pm, 6.50pm, 8.05pm Holy Man 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm How Stella Got Har Groupe Back 8.25pm Little 5.15pm, 8.45pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 8.25pm Little Voice 8.55pm Shakespeare In Love 12.20pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm This Year's Love 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Urban Legend 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9pm You've Got M@II 12.40pm 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

ILFORD ODEON (08705 050007) & Gants Hill A Bug's Life 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Shakespeare In Love 2.50pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm This Year's Love 2.55pm, 5.40pm. 8.35pm Titanic 2.10pm. 8.45pm You've Got M@il 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm

KILBURN TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000) & Kilburn Titanic Town 5.30pm, 8.45pm

KINGSTON ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston A Bug's Life 1 20pm, 3.40pm. 6.05pm Little Voice 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 5.25pm, 8.10pm You've Got M@il 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

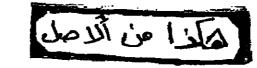
MUSWELL HILL ODEON (08705 050007) @ Highgate A Bug's Life 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.05pm This Year's Love 2pm. 4.15pm, 6.30pm. 8.45pm You've Got M@il 1pm, 3.30pm. 6pm, 8.30pm

PECKHAM PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye A Bug's Life 4.40pm. 7pm, 9.20pm Holy Man 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.25pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 6.20pm, 9.05pm Madeline 4,30pm Shakespeare in Love 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm This Year's Love 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm You've Got M@il

9

ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley A ar's Love 1pm, 3,30pm, 6,10pm, Bug's Life 6pm Shakespeare in Love 8.20pm This Year's Love 5.25pm. 8.25pm You've Got M@il

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ODEON (08705 050007) BR/ORICHMOND A Bug's Life 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Shake-speare in Love 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 9 10pm You've Got M@1 1pm. 3 50pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007)

BR & Richmond Don't Go Break ing My Heart 1.30pm, 7pm Hilary And Jackie 3.40pm, 9pm Holy Man 3 20pm, 9.20pm Little Voice 7pm, 9.30pm Stepmom 12.50pm. 5pm This Year's Love 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

ROMFORD ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford A Bug's Life 2.10pm, 4.15pm. 5.20pm Jack Frost 6pm Stepmom S 25pm This Year's Love 2.15pm.

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR Romford A Bug's Life 12 15pm, 2pm, 2.30pm, 4.20pm, 4.45pm, 6 30pm, 7pm, 8.40pm Holy Man 12 45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 9pm Shakespeare in Love 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Stepmom 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 183 Year's Love 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6 30pm, 8.50pm Urban Legend 12 10pm, 2 20pm, 4,30pm, 6 40pm, 9pm You've Got M@il 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm SIDCUP

ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup A Bug's Life 6pm Shakespeare in Love 8 20pm You've Got M@il 5 15pm, 8 15pm

STAPLES CORNER

STAPLES CORNER WIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Crick-lewood A Bug's Life 1 pm. 2.15pm. 3 30pm, 4 30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Holy Man 6 45pm, 9.20pm Stake-speare in Love 12.30pm, 3.10pm. 5 50pm, 8 50pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Urban Legend 2pm. 420pm, 6.45pm. 915pm You've Got M@II 1pm. 3 45nm, 6 20pm, 9pm

STREATHAM ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Hideous Kinky 2 10pm, 4 30pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Shakespeare in Love 2.25pm, 8 25pm Stepmom 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Brixton Clapham Common A Bug's Life 2.30pm, 450pm. 7pm. 9pm Dead Man's Curve 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 6 50pm, 8.50pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 12,20pm, 3pm 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm This Year's Love 1 30pm 3 50pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@ii 12.40pm, 3 75pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/O 5. Stratford East A Bug's Life 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm La Vita e Bella 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4pm, 6 30pm, 9pm You've Got M@il 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm,

SURREY QUAYS OCI (0990 888990) © Surrey Cusys Antz 12.50pm A Bug's Life 1cm. 2pm, 3 20pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7 10pm, 8.30pm, 11pm Holy Man 3 30pm, 6.10pm, 8 50pm, 11.30pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 55cm The Land Girls 2.50cm. line 1 40pm, 4.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm Shake Love 12 40pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm. 9pm. 11 30pm Stepmom 6 35pm. 50pm This Year's Love 3.50pm. 6 30pm, 9 10pm, 11 50pm Urban Legend 2.40pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, Som You've Got M@il 1 30nm 4 10pm, 6 50pm, 9.30pm, 11.55pm

UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutton O Morden A Bug's Life 1pm. Jen. 3 30pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7pm e 30pm Enemy of the State 9pm The Land Girls 6 25pm Little Voice 30pm Madeline 12 45pm 15pm Shakespeare in Love 1.15cm, 3.55cm, 6.35cm, 9.20cm This Year's Love 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 11:pm 9.55pm You've Got M@ll 1 30pm 4 10pm, 6.50pm, 9 40pm

TURNPIKE LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519) @ Jung-ke Lane A Bug's Life 4pm. Supm. 8 Jupm This Year's Love Uspm. 6 20pm, 8 35pm You've Got Mehrl 3 30pm, upm, 8,25pm UXBRIDGE

ODEON (08705 050007) 0 Ustradge A Bug's Life 1 30pm, 4.15pm is 20pm Shakespeare in Lave Sign You've Got M@il Chris 3 30pm, 6pm 9 30pm WALTHAMSTOW

FOR

ACC

tawa central A Bug's Life 1 40pm. 3 50cm, opm Stepmom 8 10pm This Year's Love 1 25pm, 3 40pm, opm Velvet Goldmine 8 20pm eu've Got M@il 1 55pm, 5 05pm

THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-Bug's Life 4 20pm Hilary And Jackie 3 30pm, 8 25pm Shake-speare in Love 6pm You've Got

CORONET (0161-850 3351) BR.

Eitham A Bug's Ufe 4pm. 6 30pm. Stepmom 3.25pm, 5 Schm. 8 25pm WILLESDEN

BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) + Wilesder Green A Bug's Life 4.45pm Holy Man 6.30pm, 9pm WIMBLEDON

ODEON (08705 050007) BR & Wimble don A Bug's Life 12 15pm, 25cm + 35cm, 6.45cm, 8.55cm Elizabeth 11am Little Voice John, S 50pm Shakespeare in Love 12 10pm, 2 55pm, 5.35pm, F . Com Stepmom 1 45pm, 6.25pm This Year's Love 1 20pm, 3 40pm, 6 10pm, 9 40pm The Truman Show ism You've Got M@il 12 25pm. 3 10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

WOODFORD ABC (0151-989 3463) @ South Goodford A Bug's Life 1 20pm. Libera firm Shakespeare in Love 7 45pm, 5 30pm, 8.10pm Stepmom Com You've Got M@it 2.30pm 5 TCpm, 6 15pm

WOOLWICH CORONET (0161-854 5043) BR: Weolwich Arsenal A Bug's Life 4pm, 6 30pm, 8 40pm You've Got Ma⊉il 3 30pm, 6pm 8 75pm

NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) & Turnpike Lane Kachche Dhaage 8 45pm Aa Ab Laut Chalain 2pm

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CINEMA REPERTORY

CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place, SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) The Model Shop (18) 8.30pm ICA The Mall, SW1 (0171-930

3647) Des Nouvelles du Bon Dies (18) 6.30pm, 9.15pm Raghs-e-Khak (NC) 7pm Bicycleran (U) 9pm NFT South Bank. SE1 (0171-928 3232) A Wonderful idea of the Fight-ing: First Tuesday Lecture (NC) 1pm La Vie Revée des Anges (18) 2.30pm, 6.10pm The Green Man (NC) 6.15pm The Fool: Television (NC) 7.30mm Les Misorables (12) (NC) 7.30pm Les Miserables (12) 8.20pm Yam Daabo (NC) 8.30pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road, N2 (0181-444 6789) Shakespeare in Love (15) 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place. WC2 (0171-437 8181) Hana-Bi (18) 1.30pm Fear and Loathing in

Las Vegas (18) 4pm Antz (PG) 6.30pm What Dreams May Come (15) 8.45pm RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road, W6 (0171-420 0100) Un Coeur en Hiver (12) 6.45pm + Nelly et Monsieur Arnaud 8.50pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568 1176) Hideous Kinky (15) 1.30pm, 9.15pm La Vita é Bella (PG) 4.45pm, 9pm

BRIGHTON DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503) Cinema Paradiso (PG) 2pm La Vi-ta è Bella (PG) 4pm, 8.45pm Pecker (18) 6.30pm

BRISTOL WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) La Wata è Bella (PG) 3pm. 8.30pm The Roaring Twenties (PG) 6pm Your Friends and Neighbors (18) 6 10pm The Apple (5ib) (PG) CAMBRIDGE

ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Hilary and Jackie (15) 12noon La Vita è Beila (PG) 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm Your Friends and Neighbors (18) 9.30pm

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) On Connaît la Chanson (PG) 7.30pm Hilary and Jackle (15) CHICHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-

786650) Hilary and Jackle (15) 3 15pm, 6pm La Vita è Bella (PG) FILM THEATRE (01473-215544)

Charlots of Fire (U) 2.30pm x (PI) (15) 6pm, 8.15pm Your Friends and Neighbors (18) 6.15pm, 8.30pm CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Hi-lary and Jackle (15) 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm

ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) La Vie Revèe des Anges (18) 6pm. 8.30pm Out of Sight (15) 8pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON ABC EAST STREET (01273-327010): A Bug's Life (U): Jack Frost (PG): Shakespeare in Love (15); This Year's Love (18): You've

ODEON (0870-207977): A Bug's Life (U): Don't Go Breaking my Heart (PG); The Land Girls (12): Lit-tle Voice (15); Madeline (U): The Opposite of Sex (18); Shakespeare in Love (15): This Year's Love (18); You've Got M@II (PG)

VIRGIN (0541-555145): A Bug's Life (U): Enemy of the State (15): Harriet the Spy (PG): Holy Man (PG): Jack Frost (PG): Little Voice (15); Madeline (U); Stianespeare in Love (15); Stepmom (12); This Year's Love (18); Urban Legend

CAMBRIDGE WARNER VILLAGE (01223-460442): A Bug's Life (U): Don't Go Breaking my Heart (PG): Elizabeth (15): Holy Man (PG): Jack Frost (PG): La Vica è Bella (PG): Little Voice (15): Madeline (U): The Prince of Egypt (U); Shakespeare in Love (15); Stepmom (12); This Year's Love (18); Urban Legend (18), Very Bad Things (13); You've (18), Very Bad 7 Got M@ll (PG)

NORWICH NORWICH
ABC (0541-560567): Antz (PG):
Babe: Pig in the City (U), A Bug's
Life (U): Hideous Kinky (15): Jack
Frost (PG). Little Voice (15): Practical Magic (12): The Prince of
Egypt (U): Shakespeare in Love
[15): You've Got M@il (PG)

ODEON (08705-050007), Babe Pig in the City (U); A Bug's Life (U); Madeline (U); Small Soldiers (PG). This Year's Love (18); You'v

PORTSMOUTH ABC (01705-82353S): Elizabeth (15), Enemy of the State (15); Jack Frost (PG): Shakespeare in Love (15); Very Bad Things (18)

ODEON (08705-050007): A Bug's Life (U); Don't Go Breaking my Heart (PG): Dr Dolittle (PG): Madeline (U); Mulan (U); Small Solies diers (PG): Stepmom (12); This Year's Love (18): You've Got M@il

A Bug's Life (U): Enemy of the State (15): The Land Girls (12). Lit-tle Voice (15): Madeline (U): The Prince of Egypt (U): Shakespeare in Love (15): Stepmom (12): This Manual Company (12): This Year's Love (18); You've Got M@il

SOUTHAMPTON ODEON LEISURE WORLD (01703-222111); Antz (PG); Blade (18); A Bug's Life (U); Don't Go Breaking my Heart (PG), Dr Bolittle (PG): En-emy of the State (15): George of the Jungle (U): Godzilla (PG): Holy Man (PG), Jack Frost (PG): Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) (PG): Little Voice (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barreis (18): Madeline (U): MouseHunt (PG): Mulan (U): The Parent Trap (PG): Practical Magic (12): The Prince of Egypt (U): Shakespeare in Love (15): The Slege (15): Small Soldlers (PG): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Step-mon (12): There's Something About Mary (15): This Year's Love (18): Urban Legend (18); Very Bad Things (18): You've Got M@il (PG)

) OKLAHOMA! Maureen Lipman VIRGIN CINEMA (0541-555132); A stars in the National's acclaimed pro-Bug's Life (U); Jack Frost (PG); duction of Rodgers and Han stein's cowboy v farmhand musica Lyceum Wellington Street, WC2 (0870-606 3446) & Charing X Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, (15): This Year's Love (18): Urban Legend (18); You've Got

<u>THEATRE</u> WEST END

licket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week; running times include intervals.
— Seats at all prices) — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matmees — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed. (5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

D ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Fe-licity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) → Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 6 Mar, £19.50-£27.50, £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views). 130 mins.

◆ AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama based on the life of Mozart Old Vic The Cut. SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/O Waterioo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm. £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

ART Tom Mannion, Danny Webb, and Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867 1111) & Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm. [4] 3pm, [7][1] 5pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins. DEBEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lav-

ish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) ⊕ Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm. £18.50-£35. 150 mins. ● BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Rus

sell's long-running Liverpool musi-cal melodrama. Phoenbt Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) 6 Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £11.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

DUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ⊕ Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£30, half price Friday D CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) ◆ Covent

Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7,45pm. [3][7] 3pm. £10.50-£35. 165 min > CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway ter Davison star in this mit broadway
musical about two munderous women
and their nightclub act. Adelphi
Maiden Lane. WC2 (0171-344 0055)
Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm. [4][7]

3pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee). 130 **O THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF** AMERICA (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company's keenly-paced theatrical history lesson. Cri-terion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) & Picc Circ. Tue 3pm, £10-£25, 120 mms.

) COPENHAGEN New drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. Duchess Catherine Street. WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 0171-344 4444) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, E10-E30. 145 mins.

) DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN Mark Little stars in this witty and wise comedy about the sexes. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) ← Prcc Circ. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fn & Sat 6pm & 8.45pm, £10-£25, concs available.

O DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Ham-mersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 2.30pm, £12.50-£32.50, 150 mi

 GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film starring Darren Day. Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Chris pher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed productio of Wilde's comedy, Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045)
Picc Circ. Man-Sat 7.45pm. [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £7.50-529.50. 165

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 50851 & Lerc Sq. Mon-Fri 7,45pm, Sat 8 15pm, [4] 2,30pm, [7] 5pm, E12-E29.50, 110 mins.

LIFT OFF Issues of race are ex-Roy Williams's new pie Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street. WC2 (0171-S65 5000) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 9pm. ends 13 Mar, £10, concs

) LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EU-NUCHS Ewan McGregor stars as the revolutionary activist in David Ral-lwell's drama. Comedy Panton Street. SVI (0171-369 1731) O Picc Circ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 13 Mar. E7-£27.50.

) MACBETH Rufus Sewell and Sali0171-494 50401 👄 Picc Circ. Mon Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2 30pm, ends 5 Jun, £10 50-£28.50.

O THE MEMORY OF WATER AL ison Steadman and Julia Sawalha star in this touching comedy about Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR ⊕ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5][7] 3pm, £8-£27.50.

I LES MISERABLES Musical tramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, WI (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm. £7-£35 195 mms

• MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-Set 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £8.50-£35.

 THE MOUSETRAP Agatha
 Christie's whodinmit which just keeps on running. St Martin's West Street. WC2 (0171-836 1443) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm. [3] 2 45pm. [7] 5pm £10-£24.50. 135 mins.

COUNTRYWIDE **ABERYSTWYTH** ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE Macbeth Volcano Theatre's physical production of Shakespeare's dark and tragic love story. Tonight 7.30pm.

ends 26 Jun. £10-£35.

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical, Her Majesty's Hay-market, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) & Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £10-£35. 150 mins. 150 min

PRENT Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Av-enue. WCZ (07000-211221) & Hol-born/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 3pm. £12.50-£32.50. 160

PRICHARD # Robert Lindsay stars as the historical villain. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 0171-835 0479) ← Charing X/Embank-ment. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, E10-E27.50. A5

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

● LYTTELYON: The Forest Alan Ay-

ckhourn's new version of Ostrovsky's black social satire stars Frances de

la Touc in rep. today 2.15pm & ● COTTESLOE: Guiding Star Jonathan Harvey's new play gives a tender account of the life of Hillsborough disaster survivor in rep, tonight 7.30pm. ends 5 Apr, 150 mins. Lyttelton: £8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£18. NT2000: £4, concs £3. Day seats from 10am. South Bank. SE1 (0171-452 3000). BR/⊕ Wa-

I THE BARBICAN: Measure For Measure Stephen Boxer stars in Shakespeare's gramment at the stars in ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY In rep. tonight 7.15pm. 160 mins.

● THE PIT: Bad Weather Robert ● THE PTI: Bad Weather Robert Holman's examination of the break-down in family relationships. In rep, tonight 7.15pm. Barbican Theatre: £5-£26. The Pti: £11-£18.50. Bar-bican Centre. EC2 (0171-638 8891). BR/O Barbican/Moorgate.

● YOUNG VK: Talk of the City Stephen Poliakoff's drama explores media control in the early days of TV and radio. In rep. tonight 7.15pm. RSC at the Young Vk: £14-£20. The Cut. SE1 (0171-928 6363). ⊕/BR:

) SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER 班 1970s musical teaturing legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia, London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ⊕ Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 135 mins. I SHOOKHEADED PETER Brilliant

lies. Lyric Haramersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) © Hammer-smith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, 31 Mar. Apr 7, 2.30pm, ends 10 Apr. I SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW Slav Polourine returns to London with his mesmeric show that takes all ages back to the realms of childish delight.

junk opera, featuring the Tiger Lil-

Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ⊕ Picc Circ. onight 7pm. £10-£27.50. STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lord Webber's hi-tech miler-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/O Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins.

O AMERICAN IMPORTS: THREE DAYS OF RAIN Drama about the strange legacy left to two children by their father: Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369) 1732) O Covent Garden, Tonight 7pm, ends 13 Mar, E8-E15, mats £8.

D TOAST Richard Wilson directs Richard Bean's new drama set in a Hull bakery, Royal Court Upstairs WC2 (0171-565 5000) ↔ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7pm. [7] 4pm, ends 6 Mar, £10, concs £5.

● VASSA Howard Davies directs a new stage version of Maxim Gorky's tale of a matriarch and her downtrodden family. Alberry St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) ← Le-ic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 27 Mar, £5-£29.50.

• THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) → Leic Sq/Char-ing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90 mins.

• WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987) & Leic Sq/Pic Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £18.50-£35, 160 mins.

) WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 0171-836 2428) & Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins

O THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street. WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 0171-344 4444) ◆ Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, [7] 4pm. £8.50-£23.50. 110

THEATRE BEYOND THE WEST END

ARTS THEATRE Howard Crabtree's When Pigs Fly Gay musical comedy poking him at American culture. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 6pm & 8.30pm, Sun 6pm. ends 3 Apr. £20-£25 concs £15, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334/cc 741

KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON Jackson Ward Dark comedy about retired surgeons. Tue-Sun 1 pm, ends 7 Mar. £5, concs £4. The Vagina Mon ogues Eve Engler

performs her own aclaimed off-Broadway hit. Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Sat Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916) Angel/Highbury & Islington. RICHMOND THEATRE The Pris-

oner of Second Avenue Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason star in

Neil Simon's comedy about a mid-life crisis. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat Wed 2.30pm, ends 6 Mar, phone for **SWANSFA** prices. The Green, Richmond, Sur-rey (0181-940 0088) & Richmond. **GRAND THEATRE Guards! Guards** Terry Pratchett's novel adapted for the stage, Mon-Fri 7,30cm, mat Wed 1.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.15pm, ends 6 Mar. £6-£14.50, concs available **THEATRE**

the Bible story. Mon-Thur & Sat

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

Firşt Call

THE NATIONAL'S latest offering, Geometry of Miracles, comes straight from Glasgow, a city of architecture and design, and charts the peaks and troughs of the studentteacher relationship between American architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Georgi Gurdjieff, the Russian theorist and mathematician. The culturally diverse cast guarantee to illuminate this cocktail of raw emotion and design with a scientific twist.

National Theatre, London SE1 (0171-452 3000) to 24 Apr

Last Call

IRISH FOLK BAND The Cranberries (right) are back with their long-awaited third album, Bury the Hatchet. Since the phenomenal success of their first two recordings, which sold over 13 million copies, the band have been taking it easy with lead singer Dolores O'Riordan finding time to become a mother. The new album will be followed by a gig, their first in three years since O'Riordan collapsed suffering from exhaustion. Refreshed and with new material, 1999 should see The Cranberries competing once more with the likes of Catatonia and The Manic Street Preachers. Shepherd's Bush Empire, London W12 (0171-771 7000)

£5.95, concs £4.95 Penglais (01970-)

BASINGSTOKE HAYMARKET THEATRE Dracula Stage adaptation of Bram Stoker's chilling horror story, with dark themes of passion, possession and mortality. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, ends 13 Mar. £9.50-£15.50, concs available Wote Street (01256-465566)

USTINOV STUDIO AT THE THE-OSTNOV STODIO AT THE THE-ATRE ROYAL The Tempest Hard-edged production of the late great fantasy. Tue-Sat 7.45pm, mat Wed 2.45pm, ends 6 Mar. £8.50, concs £5.50 Sawclose (01225-448844)

THEATRE ROYAL Loot Michael Elphick and Letitia Dean star in Joe Ortan's black comedy. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat Thur 2.30pm, ends 6 Mac £7.50-£15.50, concs available Bond Street (01273-328488)

CIVIC THEATRE Lanza - The Last Serenade A musical tribute to leg-endary singer Mario Lanza. Mon-Thur 7.30pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm, ends 6 Mar, £9.50-£12, concs avallable Fairfield Road (01245-

CHELTENHAM EVERYMAN THEATRE Twelfth Night Northern Broadsides's accessible production, directed by Bar-rie Rutter, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm. mats Tue & Thur 2pm, ends 6 Mar. £5-£15 Regent Street (01242-

DARTFORD ORCHARD THEATRE And Then There Were None Agatha Christie's whodunnit set in a lonely house on a remote island, 2 & 3 Mar, 7.45pm. £10.50-£12.50 Home Gardens (01322-220000)

Tom Stoppard's farce is set in 1850s Vienna. 2 & 3 Mar, 7.30pm. £8.50, concs £7 Edgar Street (01432-QUEEN'S THEATRE Our Day Out Willy Russell's nostalgic comedy. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 13 Mar. £8.50-

Lane (01708-443333) LEICESTER HAYMARKET THEATRE A Passionate Woman Kay Mellor's com-ic and poignant comedy about a Leeds mum trying to come to terms Tue-Sat 7.30pm, ends 20 Mar. E6.50-£14.50, concs available Bel-grave Gate (0116-253 9797)

MANSFIELD PALACE THEATRE The Lost Child Second part of the David Glass Ensemble trilogy based on Lewis Car-roll's Through the Looking Glass. Tonight 7.30pm, £8.50, concs £6.50

WATERMILL THEATRE More Talking Heads Janet Brown, Patricia England and Sophie Lawrence bring Alan Bennett's superb mo to life. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm, ends 13 Mar. £6-£16.50 Bagnor (01635-46044)

NORWICH MADDERMARKET THEATRE Saionika An octogenarian World War One war widow visits the beach at Sa lonika where her husband perished Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 6 Mar. £4-£6.50 St Johns Alley (01603-

620917) DRUM THEATRE, THEATRE ROY AL The Impostor Pete Lawson's wit-ty adaptation of Moliere's comedy, Tartuffe. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, ends 6 Mar. £6-£9, concs available Royal Pa-rade South (01752-267222)

SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE The Birthday Party Hushand and wife team Timothy West and Prunella Scales in Pinter's modern classic. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thur-Sat 8pm, mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm. ends 6 Mar E8-£15 Maithouse Lane (01722 320333}

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON THE OTHER PLACE The Disput Marivaux's quasi-scientific drama directed by Neil Bartlett. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, phone for mats, ends 20 Mar. £10-£19, concs available South ern Lane (01789-295623)

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

The Winter's Tale Seasonal tale of obsessive jealousy directed by Gre-gory Doran. 1-4 Mar. 7.30pm, mat 4 Mar, 1.30pm. £7-£30 Watersid (01789-295623)

Singleton Street (01792-475715) NEW VICTORIA THEATRE Jos and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical version of **EXHIBITIONS**

BATH MUSEUM OF COSTUME Primitive Streak: Helen Storey and Dr Kate Storey Artistic collaboration be-tween a fashion designer and a biol-ogist, Mon-Sun 10am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.90, concs £3.50. child £2.90, group concs. Assembly Rooms, Bennett Street (01225-

CAMBRIDGE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM Picasso and Matisse Prints, drawings, and ceramics from the museum's col-

lection. Ends 11 Apr.
Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary American Prints Early etchings of the East Coast, lithographs, woodcuts and screenprints. Ends 2 May. Rembrandt and the Passion The museum's outstand

of prints. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2,15pm-5pm, ends 20 Jun. free.

Trumpington Street (01223-332900) LONDON CAMPEN ARTS CENTRE Double Game: Sophie Calle Comprehensive retrospective of Calle's work, includes a new work made with novelist Paul Auster Tue-Thur 11am-7pm, Fri-Sun 11am-5.30pm, ends 28 Mar, free. Arkwright Road NW3 (0171-435 2643/5224) & Finchley

Road/Hamostead.

DESIGN MUSEUM Mini: 40 Years of a Design Icon Mini's designed by celebrities mark the 40th anniversary of the vehicle. Ends 9 May Modern Britain 1927-1939 A study on the important period after the Great War including the work of Francis Bacon, Paul Nash and Barbara flepworth. Phone for times, ends 18 Jul. £5.25, concs £4 (to mu-seum). Shad Thames SE1 (0171-378 6055) ◆ Tower Hill/DLR: Tower

HAYWARD GALLERY Patrick THE COURTYARD On the Razzle Caulfield More than 50 colourful paintings by the leading British artist, Mon. Thur-Sun 10am-5pm. Tue & Wed 10am-8pm, ends 11 Apr. £6, concs £4, family £12, Belvedere Road SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/9 Waterloo

NATIONAL GALLERY Portraits by ingres Major exhibition of paintings and drawings by the 19th-century French artist. Ends 25 Apr. £6, concs E12.50, concs £5.50-£10.50 Billet £4, Wed £4 7pm-10pm. In the Light of Fra Angelico: Zanobi Strozzi Study exhibition exploring the paintings of the 15th-cen-tury artist. Mon & Tue, Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-9pm, ends 7 Mar, free. Trafalgar Square WC2 (0171-747 2885) & Charing Cross,

Leicester Square ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Monet in the 20th Century Eighty paint-ings made in the 26 years after 1900. Mon-Thur, Sun 9am-6pm, Fri & Sat 9am-10pm, ends 18 Apr. £9, concs £6, child (12-18) £3, child (8-11) £1.50. Burlington House, Piccadil-ly W1 (0171-300 8000/413 1717)

O Green Park/Piccadilly Circus TATE GALLERY Art Now 17: mas Demand's Tunnei Looped film of travel in a tunnel emigres ur-

Works on Paper and Palntings: Francis Bacon Paintings and draw-ings previously kept secret. Ends 2 May, free. When Robots Rule - The One White Arplane Factory: Chris Bur-den Installation of flying planes ex-plores contemporary life. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 13 Jun, free. Willbank SW1 (0171-887 8000) 👄

NORWICH NORWICH ARTS CENTRE India 50
- Working People: Sebastiao Sal-gado Internationally acclaimed photographer portrays the harsh realit of Indian life. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm Sat 11am-4pm, ends 8 Apr, free. Reeves Yard, St Benedict's Street (01603-660352)

OXFORD MUSEUM OF MODERN ART James Casebere New works by the Amer-New video installation. Tue-Sui 11am-6pm (Thur to 9pm), ends 4 Apr. £2.50 (free Wed morn & Thur eve), concs £1.50, child free Pembroke Street (01865-722733)

ST IVES TATE GALLERY Displays 1998-9: Partnerships and Practice Paintings and ceramics from the second half of the century, pins a seection of contemporary work. Quoit Montserrat: Veronica Ryan Marbie sculpture linking St Ives with Moutserrat in the West Indies the artist's birthplace. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50. concs £2. Porthmeor

Beach (01736-796226) SWANSEA GLYNN VIVIAN ART GALLERY Venice Through Canaletto's Eyes Twenty-three paintings and drawing by the Venetian artist. Tue-Sun 10am Spm, ends 14 Mar, free. Alexandra Road (01792-651738/655006)

WOLVERHAMPTON WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY Disasters of War: Callot, Goya, Dir Selections from three artists' war etchings. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 20 Mar, free. Lichfield Street (01902CLASSICAL

BERGAVENNY BOROUGH THEATRE European Union Chamber Orchestra/Larsen Music by Haydn, Mozart and Bruckner. Tonight 7.30pm. £9.50, concs £7.50, Cross Street (01873-850805)

LONDON BARBICAN HALL Royal Philharmonic/Bachmann Bachmannn's own Uluru Invocation, Beethoven's Pismo Concerto No.1 and Bruckner's 5th Symphony. Tonight 7.30pm. £5-£32. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL Philharmonia/Boulez Music of the Second Viennese School by Webern and Schoenberg, Tonight 7.30pm, £5-£30, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/⊕ Waterloo.

OPERA

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DRAMA The Tsarina's Shoes The Guildhali School of Music and The (minnai Staton of Russe and Drama with a rare staging for Tchaikovsky's opera. Tonight 7pm. £14, concs £10. Slik Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) ⊕ Barbican.

LONDON COLISEUM La Traviata

Verdi's great Realist tragedy in English National Opera's acclaimed staging. Tonight 7.30pm. £5-£55. St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300) O Leicester Square. DANCE

RATH THEATRE ROYAL The Royal Ballet: Dance Sites Stars of the Royal Ballet including Darcey Bussell and Deborah Buil perform new works created specially for the tour by cutting edge choreographers Mark Bakdwin and William Tuckett. Tonight 7.30pm. £12-£22.50. Saw-create 01225-668846)

close (01225-448844) SADLER'S WELLS AT THE PEA-COCK THEATRE Paco Peña Flamenco Presents La Musa Gitana guitar. Tue-Sat 8pm, mat Sat, Sun 3pm, ends 7 Mar. £7.50-£35. Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222)

SADLER'S WELLS Arc Dance Company Presents The Return of Don Juan Dramatic comedy with Royal Ballet star, Irek Mukhamedov. Tonight 7.30pm. £7.50-£30. Ros bery Avenue, EC1 (0171-863 8000)

LITERATURE

MINE HODGES: GETTING CARTER Insight into the story of the adaptation and making of Get Corter with its director and screenwriter Mike Hodges. Guildhail - 1999 Bath Literature Festival only (01225-463362) Tonight 8.30pm, £5, concs £4.

LONDON THE ORIGINAL ALICE - FROM MANUSCRIPT TO WONDERLAND Curator Sally Brown traces the history of Lewis Carroll's classic, from its beginnings as a tale told on a sum-mer boat trip in Oxford. British Li-Grary Euston Road NW1 (0171-412 7222) & King's Cross. Today 1.30pm, free.

COMEDY

EXETER AL MURRAY THE PUB LAND-LORD - LATE LOCK-IN '99 AT EX-ETER PHOENIX The triple Perrier nominee takes last orders. Tonight 8pm, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street (01392-667080) £9, concs £7.

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA GOODNESS GRACIOUS ME AT GUIFFS PAVILION Award winning Asian comedy sketch show with Meera Syal, Sanjeev Bhashar, Kul-vinder Ghir, Nine Wadier Tonight 7.30pm. Station Road (01702-251125151251676) 351135) £12,50-£14,50.

LONDON THROUGH PERU AT EAST DUL-WICH TAVERN Peter Searles performs his solo narrative comedy show Tonight 8pm, Lordship Lane, SE22 (0181-299 4138) BR: East

CLUBS

BRIGHTON SUSST AT THE HONEY CLUB Indie old and new Tonight 10pm-2am, free. King's Road Arches (01273-202807)

LONDON FEET FIRST AT CAMDEN PALACE Big beat and indie night with five mn-sic and cheap drinks. Tonight 10pm-2am, Camden High Street. NW1 (0171-387 0428) & Camden Town, £5. NUS/concs £3.

CARDIFF
TOWARDS A SINGLE CURRENCY
First showing of the British entries
from the coinage design competition
for the European Single Currency.
National Museum And Gallery
Cathays Park (01222-573473) TueSun 10am-5pm. ends Apr 6, £4.25,
concs £2.50, family £9.75, under 5s
free impresum entrol. CARDIFF

LONDON
TIBET FOUNDATION BENEFIT EVENING Presentation marking the 40th anniversary of the Chinese in-40th anniversary of the Chinese in-vasion of Tibet. All proceeds will be donated to the Tibet Foundation. Alternatives, St James's Church. Piccadilly W1 (0171-287 6711) © Piccadilly Circus. Tonight 7pm, £6.

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE: CHIL-DREN'S EVENT Interactive exhibition exploring literacy and communication.
Livesey Museum Old Kent Road SE15 (0171-639 5604) ⊕ Elephant & Castle. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 28

THREE COLOURS RED Heavyweight pop-punk from the forthcoming allum, Revolt. Anson Rooms, Bristol University Queens Road (0117-954 5800) Tonight 8pm, £7.50.

and his veteran Ulster punks tour a new album, Hope Street, with Exphone for prices.

STIFF LITTLE FINGERS Jake Burns

ONE LADY OWNER High-revving in-die-rock youngsters. Cawern Club Queen Street (01392-495370) Tonight 8pm, phone for prices. BARRAGE Youthful 12-piece Canadian fiddle sensations. St Georges Hall Fore Street (01392-422137/cd

KENT DUCHAINE American blues journeyman who's been travelling and playing the National Steel since 1968. The Pit Itchel Lane, Crondall

LONDON UK AFRICA Music showcase for W1 (0171-734 7700) ↔ Picc

singer previews material from her forthcoming Afterglow about. The Improv Tottenham Court Road W1 (0171-387 2414/cc 344 4444) + Warren Street. Tonight 8pm, £7.

MUSIC JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

HARRY BECKETT QUARTET WITH: CHRIS BISCOE Veteran left-field trumpeter with guest saxist. Boat Race East Road (01223-5085) Tonight 8.30pm, £8, concs £5.

Thomas Street SE1 (0171-955 4791) BR/C London Bridge. Tonigh 7.30pm, phone for prices. GEORGE MELLY & JOHN CHILTON'S FEETWARMERS Veteran reconteur, art critic, broad-caster and Satchmo-styled singer

QUINTET Guitar and sax-led modern jazz. John Ariott Room Staff Club. Southampton University (01703-593600) Tonight 8.30pm. £6, mems £4, concs £3.

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MUSIC

BRISTOL

Jam bassist Bruce Foxton in the lineup. The Junction Clifton Road (01223-511511) Tonight 8.30pm, EXETER

219741) Tonight 8pm, phone for

(01252-850789) Tonight 7.30pm,

bands from the cross-cultural ferment. Cafe de Paris Coventry Street Circus/Leicester Square, Tonight 10pm, £10, concs £6. DOT ALLISON Former One Dove

TEN BENSON Thumping white-trash to-fi from Chris Tekkam and his fast rising cult quartet. Water Rats Theatre Gray's Inn Road WC1

(0171-284 0077) Tube/BR: King's Cross. Tonight 8.30pm, £5, concs £4. MAIDSTONE BELINDA CARLISLE Glamorous ex-Go Go with new acoustic material from her latest album, A Womon and a Man. Hazlitt Theatre Earl

Street (01622-758611) Tonight

LIVE BATTS! The best in free jazz and modern textural music from John Whites' curious portable key-

boards project. The Old Operating Theatre Museum & Herb Garret S

Pizza on the Park Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) → Hyde Park Corner. Tonight 9.15pm &

11.15pm, £20, adv £18. MONTY ALEXANDER TRIO Jamaican piano populist fusing Oscar Peterson swing with reggae and calypso sources. Ronnie Scott's Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747/cc 0171-439 0747) @ Lelosster Square night 9pm & 11.30pm, £12. mems £4.

SOUTHAMPTON DAVE CLIFF/ALEX GARNETT

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TUESDAY RADIO

(97.6-99.8MHz FM) 6.30 Zoe Bail. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles, 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Digital Update. 10.10 John Peel, 12.00 The Breezeblock, 2.00 Clive Warren.

4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills. RADIO 2 (88-902MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Juliet Morris, 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Alan Freemen: Their Greatest Bits. 8.00 Nigel Ogden. 9.00 To Mother with Love: the Story of the Tattoo. 10.00 The Directors. See Pick of the Day.

10.30 Richard Alinson. 12.00 Lynn Parsons. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester. RADIO 3 (902-924MHz FM) **6.00** On Air. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. :12.00 Composer of the Week:

Tchaikovsky. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. A concert given last October at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, by Jean-Yves Thibaudet (piano). Introduced by Chris de Souza. Debussy: Brouillards; Feuilles mortes; La puerta del vino; Les fees sont d'exquises danseuses; Bruyeres; Feux d'artifice (Preludes, Book 2). Ravel: Pavane pour une infante defunte; Jeux deau; Le tombeau de couperin

2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Voices. 4.45 Music Machine. **5.00** In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. Live from the Royal Festival Hall, London, Ensemble InterContemporain, Philharmonia/Pierre Boulez. Schoenberg: Chamber Symphony No 1. Webern: Five Pieces for Small Orchestra, Op. 10. Schoenberg: Lied der Waldtaube (Gurrelieder).

8.15 Pierre Boulez. Pierre Boulez is one of the few musical thinkers who have actually had the pleasure of seeing their dreams translated into reality. Here, he talks about the Cite de la Musique, IRCAM, and his vision of the future of musical performance. 8.35 Concert, part 2. Mahler: Ruck-

6.00 Hearts Adrift (1996) (28647), 8.00

ness (1991) (61932).

SKY MOVIEMAX

3.00 Shepherd on the Rock (1994)

9.00 in My Sister's Shadow (1997)

pack (1995) (323932). 5.30 - 7.00

Godzilla vs Mecalon (1976) (99661).

(86753), 7.00 Possums (1997) (90181).

(57753). **1L00** Body Parts (1991) (89260).

12.30 Stient Lies (1996) (876086), 2.05

Purple Rein (1984) (667339). 3.55 Play-

4.00 The Tiri Star (1957) (7429395). 6.00

Monkey Business (1952) (2822444), 8.00

11.55 100 Years... 100 Movies (4581314).

2.08 Next Stop, Greenwich Village (1976)

(2743964), 4.00 About Mrs Laste (1954)

LOO The Lost World (1960) (27114463).

87559840), 9.40 Foulaises (5907376)

10.00 Bad Lieutenant (1992) (8504531).

N.40 Soigne ta droit (1986) (6482921).

1.15 Bink (1994) (3764319), 3.00 - 6.00

Les Enfants du Paradis (1944) (1003357).

4.00 Rex Hunts Fishing Adventures (408th) 4.30 Waker's World (1404395). 5.00 Time Travelers (6:82901). 5.30 Terra X (145547), 6.00 Wildlife SOS (146557).

6.30 Adventures of the Quest (3318647).

Z30 The Quest (1405024) 8.00 Great Es-capes (5487753) 8.30 Out There

10.00 Pedel for the Planet (8181802), 11.00

(1237050), 9.00 Traiblezers (8111043).

Force 21 (9078753) 12.00 Spet of the

North (9792683) 1.00 Terra X (9496883).

7.45 The Universe of Dermot Finn

12.50 Frankenstein (1931) (52(19970).

(4371319), **5.40** Close.

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

FILLEFOLR

Breaklest at Tilfany's (1961) (1701519).

The Rain People (1969) (2834269), 10.00

The Man Who Captured Elchmann (1996)

PICK OF THE DAY

THERE ARE echoes of Alan of Sue Johnston's (right) that (2.15pm R4), Char March's monologue "People Come Here a middle-aged woman who visits her local crisis centre to receive counselling for an undisclosed problem. The pain is presumably determinedly brisk observations all the difference, apparently. but it's the soulful performance

ert-Lieder. Schoenberg: Variations

9.30 Postscript. 2: One island, two

irelands: how does culture differ in

9.55 Britten-Pears Ensemble. With

Overture on Hebrew Themes, Mar-

tin: Piano Quintet. Johann Strauss

10.45 Night Waves. Reclusive film

a 20-year absence to direct The

James Jones's bestselling novel of

the Pacific War. And journalist An-

about his first novel, 'Our Fathers',

the story of a dying man's relation-

ship with his grandson.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

(92.4-94.6MHz FM)

9.30 Home Thoughts.

11.00 NEWS; Nature.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 My Mistress Music.

2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

11.30 Coming Alive.

9.45 Serial: Zarafa.

land (R)

RADIO 4

6.00 Today.

drew O'Hagan talks to Richard Coles

12.00 Composer of the Week: Cop-

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

9.00 NEWS; Unreliable Evidence.

10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

2.15 Afternoon Play: People Come

Here to Cry. See Pick of the Day.

Thin Red Line, a film based on

director Terrence Matick returns after

(son), arr Schoenberg: Emperor

to Declan Kiberd and Terrence

lain Burnside (piano). Prokofiev:

Dublin and Belfast? Joe Farrell talks

for orchestra.

Bennett in the Afternoon Play stops you weeping in disbelief. In The Directors (10pm R2), Nora Ephron, the wisecracking To Cry". It deals with Deborah, first lady of romantic comedy, talks about her debt to her mother. Phoebe, and her nonmacho approach to movie making - a good cappuccino supposed to seep through the machine for the crew can make DOMINIC CAVENDISH

3.00 NEWS; The Exchange: 0870 010 0444. 3.30 First Nights. (R)

3.45 This Sceptred Isle. 4.00 NEWS; The Learning Curve. 4.30 Shop Talk. 5.00 PM. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Mammon. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers.

7.15 Front Row, Francine Stock chairs the arts programme. She meets Andrew O'Hagan - acclaimed author of the non-fiction book 'The Missing' - who has just finished his first novel 7.45 The Cry of the Bittem. An envi-

ronmental drama by Tim Jackson. With Sean Baker, Rachel Atkins and Marian Kemmer. Director Peter Leslie 8.00 NEWS; File on 4.

8.40 in Touch. Peter White with news for visually impaired people. 9.00 NEWS; Virus - the Unseen Enerny. Infectious diseases which predated the emergence of humans will last as long as humanity itself and will remain one of the fundamental determinants of history. James Erlichman presents four programmes examining the life of the virus and man's struggle to contain it. 1: 'The Darwinian Struggle for Life'. A cold may make life miserable, but for the virus it is a matter of life and death. 9.30 Unreliable Evidence. Clive Anderson cuts through the jargon to get to the heart of an issue which affects anyone who uses the legal system. Family Law.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Ernest Hemingway Centenary - The Sun Also Rises. John Sharian reads Hemingway's acclaimed novel, whose protagonist, Jake Barnes, speaks for the Lost Generation of men and women drifting through a shattered Europe after the First World War. Lonely and lovesick, Brett turns hopelessly to Jake as a dissolute night continues (2/10). 11.00 NEWS; The Alan Davies Show. A sitcom starring Alan Davies, with Alan Francis and Ronnie Ancona as his long-suffering friends Murray and Kate. (R) 11.30 Talking Pictures. 12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book: Stories by Anton Chekhov. (R)

ate) 00 150

12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast, 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament. **RADIO 5 LIVE**

(693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 The Tuesday Match. Russell Fuller presents coverage of the night's top league action, including Barnsley v Bradford, Birmingham v Norwich and Ipswich v Watford. Plus news of the first leg of the UEFA Cup

quarter-finals. 10.00 Late Night Live. The day's big stories with Nick Robinson, Including 10.30 a full sports round-up. 11.00 News and finance. And between 11.30 and 1.00 a sharp and spirited late-night topical discussion. 1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. CLASSIC FM

(1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests, 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Classics. 9.00 Evening Concert.: A programme of works by the composer Dmitri Shostakovich, Jazz Suite No 2. Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra/Riccardo Chailty. Piano Concerto No 2. I Musici di Montreal/Maxim Shostakovich (piano). Three Romances on Poems by Pushkin, Sergei Lieferkus (tenor). Gottenburg SO/Neeme Jarvi. Symphony No 15. LSO/Mstislav Rostropovich. A Spin through the Snow. Philadelphia Orchestra/Riccardo Chairly 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.30 Russ Williams. 9.30 Mark Forrest. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 6.45 London Calling with Harriet Scott/AM Pete and Geoff. 7.30 Pete and Geoff. 10.00 James Merritt. 1.00 Steve Power. 4.30 -6.30 Richard Allen.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO M98kHz LW) 1.00 World Today. 1.30 On Screen. 1.45 Record News. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Women Who Dared to Speak. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 -7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00).

TALK RADIO 6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm and Sally James. 12.00 Crime Beat. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 4.00 The SportZone. **7.00** Eubank's People. **8.00** Cheating Hearts. 10.00 James Whale. 1.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

AFTER HIS dream start in Linares where he won well against Leko in

the first round and then moved to folus two" with a lucky win against Ivanchuk on time, Michael Adams has unfortunately fallen back into the pack with successive defeats as White against Gary Kasparov and Black against Vladimir Kramnik.

Following the Sunday rest day, the scores were Kasparov 4/6, Kramnik and Anand 3.5. Svidler. Topalov and Adams 3, Leko 2.5 and Ivanchuk just 1.5. After a tentative start, this left Kasparov in excellent shape as they neared the end of the first cycle, though there's still a long way to go. This is how he took the lead. To avoid a theoretical battle,

Adams opted for the Closed Sicilian but still got hit by a novelty, the temporary pawn sacrifice 9 ...b5!? Adams built up a dangerous-looking kingside attack but Kasparov buoyed up by the powerful e5 knight, ploughed ahead on the queenside. Not 26 ... Bxh6? 27 Nd5 Bxd5 28

Bxh6. Adams might have tried 29 Rxf7!? Nxf7 and now either 30 Be6 Bf6 31 Bxf7+ Kh8 32 Rxb1 Rxb1+ 33 Kg2 with some play for the exchange or possibly 30 Rxf7 Qxf7 31 Nxf7 Rb1 32 Bc1 Bb2 33 Kh2 Rxc1 34 Qg4 when owing to the h6 pawn 24 Qd1 Qe7 combined with the ineffectiveness 25 h5 Rb4 of the a8 bishop his queen may give 26 h6 Bh8 him enough play to get a draw.

Not 30 Bxe5? Qxe5 preventing 31 Rxf6 Qxg3+.32 ...f5 looks risky but 29 Bf4 Bf6 pursued the laudable aim of react- 30 Nf3 Bc6

ivating the white-squared bishoo. Adams got play with 34 g4! but still ended up in an unpleasant endgame. He found some counterplay with 41.e5 but in the end the a pawn ran through,

White: Michael Adams Black: Gary Kasparov Closed Sicilian

1 e4 c5 31 Nxe5 Bxe5 2 Nc3 d6 32 Qf3 f5!? 3 g3 Nc6 33 Bxe5 Qxe5 4 Bg2 g6 34 g4! Rxf2 5 d3 Bg7 35 Rxf2 Rb1+ 6 Be3 Nf6 36 Bft Rb2 37 Rxb2 Qxb2 7 Nge2 0-0 38 gxf5 Qd4+ 8 h3 e5 9 0-0 b5!? 39 Kh1 Bxa4 10 Nxb5 Rb8 40 fxg6 hxg6 41 e5 Qxe5 12 Na3 Rxb2 42 Qb7 Be8 43 Bg2 Qh5+ 13 Nc4 Rb8 14 f4 exf4 44 Kg1 Qxh6 45 Qe7 Qc1+ 46 Bf1 Bf7 47 Qxd6 Qe3+ 48 Kh1 a5

15 Nxf4 Na5 16 Nd2 Bd7 17 Ra2 Bc6 18 Nf3 Ba8 19 c4 Nd7 20 Raf2 Nb3 21 h4 Nd4 22 Bh3 Nxf3+ 52 Kh3 Kg7 23 Qxf3 Ne5 53 Bd5 a4 56 Kg1 a3 27 Ne6 Rfb8 57 Qxc5 Qe1+ 28 Ng5 Rb2 58 Kg2 a2 59 Qd4+ Kh7

49 Qd8+ Be8 50 Bg2 Qe1+ 51 Kh2 Qe5+ 54 Qb6 Bd7+ 55 Kg2 Qe2+

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CREATIVITY

NEW ACRONYMS for old: a glossary. Initials for contributors, too. Welcome to Janet M Holdcroft, John Lamper, Philip Marlow, Tony McCoy O'Grady and PB Thomas. Regular contributors should be recognisable from their initials; if not, invent irreverent names for them for next week!

ACCESS A Credit Card Encourages Silly Spending (JL). BAFTA Brilliantly Artistic Films Trading Awfully (JO'B). BSE Brains Scrambled Experimentally (ST); Because Scrapie Eaten (BB); Britain-Scaring Experience (MH). BT Bureaucratic Torture (PM). CFC Chemicals For Clouds (ST). CIA Can't Investigate Anything (JAK): Cock-ups In Adventurism (JO'B); Cocaine Importation Authority (PM). ID Coppers In Disguise (MG). EEC Europe Eats Countries (PBT). FBI Funny Bloody Investigators (JAK). FRCS For Real Circumcision Satisfaction (LC). GMB Genetically Modified Babies (AB). ICBM Instant Chaos, Bloody Murder (MG). ICI Inescapable Carcinogenic Inhalations (BB). **INTERPOL** International Traders in Erotica, Raunchy Pornography and Obscene Literature (PG). IOC Impresarios On Cloud 9 (BB); I'm Open to Corruption (TMO'G); I Order Champagne (BJO'B). KGCB Kept Giving Conservatives Backhanders (TMO'G). MAAF Madness Attributed to Additives in Food (MCH). MENSA Morons Even Now Send Applications (PBT). MODEM Machine Only Disgorges Endless Mumbo-jumbo

(TMO'G). NASA Not Another

Space Accident (JAK); Not Another Shuttle Abandoned (JO'B) NATO Nude And Totally Orgas-

0-1

mic (JR); Nuclear Attacks Threatened Openly (MG); Not Aroused Till Over (BP): Noisy American Troops Overseas (JMH); No Ability To Organise (PBT). NHS No Hospital Space (LC); No Hips Supplied (JOB). OFSTED Observing Fellow School Teachers, Evaluating Destructively (JMH); Obsessive Fads Stress Teachers Every Day (JL). OPEC Our Prices Escalate

Continually (TMO'G). PhD Particularly Harassed Daddy (AD). QED Quite Easily Deduced (LC). RSJ Right Sloppy Job (ED). UNESCO Unusual Number (of) Extremely Silly Conferences Organised (TMO'G), USA Unconvicted Serial Adulterer (ST); Unimpeachable Sexual Antics (TMO'G) VAT Very 'Ard Times (BB).

John Lamper and Tony McCoy O'Grady win Chambers Dictionary of Quotations. as does Brendan O'Byrne's challenge: If lawyers are disbarred and clergy defrocked, would electricians be delighted, musicians denoted, cooks panned. Trojans destroyed, miners shafted? Describe how various people are dismissed from their jobs.

Ideas to Creativity, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145 DL or e-mail to Loki. Valhalla @btinternet.com by 11 March. Three prizes of Chambers - one for setting the challenge - t.b.a. 16 March. On 9 March William Vague leads a parade of aptly mis-spelt celebrities.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

10.00 The World Tonight. With

Justin Webb.

PICK OF THE DAY

on the guards. Shockingly, the

majority of this film - which also

7.00 Count Duckula (90109). 7.30 The

Simpsons (15314), 8.00 The Simpsons

(76376). 9.00 Saily Jessy Raphael (79173). 10.00 The Oprah Wintrey Show (1598).

11.00 Guity! (91734). 12.00 Jenny Jones (17111). 1.00 Mad about You (95550). 1.30

leopardy (21537). 2.00 Sally Jessy

Raphael (59260), 3.00 Jenny Jones (39869), 4.00 Guity! (18376), 5.00 Star Trak: Voyager (1043), 6.00 Americas

Dumbest Criminals (2647), 6.30 Dream Team (6227), 7.00 The Simpsons (9444).

7.30 The Simpsons (5111). 8.00 Rescue

Medics (8192). **8.30** Coppers (7227). **9.00** World's Wildest Police Videos (49734).

10.00 Bloody Foreigners! (42821). 11.00 Dream Team (19005). 11.30 Star Trek: Voyager (4840). 12.30 The Commish

(34390). 1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (7409749).

7.00 Sky Sports Centre (4188685). 7:15

League Review (20260). 11.00 Triathlon

(32531), 12.30 V-Max (90043), 1.00 Ford

Monday Night Football Leicester City vs

(39050). 5.00 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (3043), **5.00** Sky Sports Centre (4647), **6.30** Scottish Football (21821).

Leeds (28314). 3.00 Spanish Football

(40024), 12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style

8.15 You're on Sky Sports (2932014). 9.00 Racing News (52395). 9.30 Aerobics - Oz Style (96227). 10.00 Football

V-Max (663821). 7.45 Totalsport (662192).

SKY SPORTS 1

(77005). 8.30 Hollywood Squares

(71482). 10.00 Dear God (1996) (71014). 12.00 The Directors (21591), 1.00 Holly wood Buzz (26869), 2.00 Hearts Adrift (1996) (64043), 4.00 Man Who Captured Eichmenn (1996) (1289), 6.00 Deer God River Wild - so he is well cast based on a true story. (1997) (56024), **10.00** Sleepers (1995) (27261753), See Pick of the Day, **12.25** as the ringleader of a group of Moll Flanders (1996) (83587681). 2-30 North Star (1995) (47086). 4.0 Strictly Busicentre in Sleepers (10pm Sky 7:10 Earth Minus Zero (1996) (73257869). 9.00 Shapherd on the Rock (1994) (60376). **11.00** Godzilia vs Megalon (1976) 37260L 1.00 Possums (1997) (54192).

SKY ONE

KEVIN BACON (right) does a features Robert De Niro, Dustin mean baddie - cf. JFK and The Hoffman and Minnie Driver - is

Clash of Wings (4pm History cruel guards who abuse four Channel), is a detailed 13-part youths at a juvenile detention examination of the various aerial battles fought during Premier). For Barry Levinson's the Second World War, from memorably tough movie, Brad the massive bombing raids Pitt, Jason Patric, Ron Eldard and doglights to the kamikaze and Billy Crudup play the four attacks. Today leading aviation as grown-ups seeking revenge expert Walter Boyne chronicles "The Plunge into Reality." JAMES RAMPTON



7.30 Fastrax (7111), 8.00 Premier Snooker League (98024). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (874173). 10.15 You're on Sky Sports (839014). 11.00 Inside Scottish Football (38289). 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (8141319), 12.15 You're on Sky Sports (6679222). 1.00 Snooker League (42845). 3.00-3.15 Sports Centre (13384864). SKY SPORTS 2 EUROSPORT 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (1262983). 7.30 7.30 Athletics (84260), 8.30 Nordic Ski-

Sky Sports Centre (9077145), 7.45 Racing News (8725840), 8.15 Moto-plus (5601208). **8.45** Sky Sports Centre (9603753), **9.00** Fish TV (5874685). **9.30** Fish TV (1552260). 10.00 Fishing (1572024). 12.00 International Bowls Australia v England (8256956). 2.00 Powerboat and Jet Sport World (5422260). 2.30 Total Sport (1366424), 3.00 World Motor Sport (2164376), 5.30 Fastrax (7766460), **6.00** Sports Unlimited (1571395), **7.00** Golf; LPGA (7862127). 9.00 Figure Skating (3541444). 10.30 Snowboarder Magazine (5871598). 11.00 Cycling (3545260). **1L30** Moto Cross (9463192). **12.30** Golf: LPGA (3634057). 2.30-2.45 Sky Sports Centre (17915390).

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Livewire (19972918), 1.00 Fish TV - Tony Dean Outdoors (31984956), 1.30 Fish TV (19985482). 2.00 The Golden Age of Racng A-Z of Motorsport (27517802). 2.30 Shell's Wonderful World of Golf Player vs Thompson (11873227), 3.30 International

Bowls Australia vs England (15806937). 5.30 Snowboarder Magazine (14461111). 6.00 Cycling (14468024). 6.30 Fish TV The Ultimate Fishing Show (14459376). 7.00 Fish TV (27528918). 7.30 Snow-boarder Magazine (14448260). 8.00 Fishing (33292753). 10.00 The Entertainers (14081821). 10.30-11.30 Superbouts Virgil Hill v Jean-Marie Emebe (79569289).

ing (56799). 10.00 Biathlon (55956). 11.00 Football: Eurogoals (87260). 12.30 Equestrianism (79640). 1.30 Sled Dog 34482), 2.00 Nordic Skiing (68078). 3.00 Biathion (66937). 4.00 Football: Euro-goals (10956). 5.30 Trial (80444). 7.00 trength (35276). **8.00** Football (305753). 10.30 Football (24662), 12.30 Close. UK GOLD

7.00 Crossroads (8061463). 7.30 Neighbours (6135531), 7.55 EastEnders (2404860), 8.30 The Bill (3798579), 9.00 The Bill (3772531): 9.30 When the Boat Comes in (5595734). 10.30 Rhoda (3701043). 11.00 Dallas (4525111). 11.55 Neighbours (75715444). 12.25 East-Enders (2467598). 1.90 Juliet Bravo (1039579). 2.00 Dallas (7358802). 2.55 The Bill (1360173). 3.25 The Bill 4.30 Rhoda (1406753), 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small (1332604). 6.00 Dynasty (1042043). 7.00 The Comedy Altemative: 2point4 Children (7289550)

(39968937). **10.45** Bugs (53383579). 11.50 The Bill (1206376), 12.20 The Bill (6165203), 12.50 Black-Adder II (8235425). 1.25 French and Saunders (9046845). 2.00 Dangerfield (8535628). 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping (8592864 LIVING 6.00 Tiny and Crew (79940840), 6.20 10 olus 2 (48381173), 6.40 Philbert the Frog (98950753). 6.45 Greedysaurus and the

7.40 Dects Army (4657173). 8.20 The

Dwarf V (1581734). 9.40 Crime Traveller

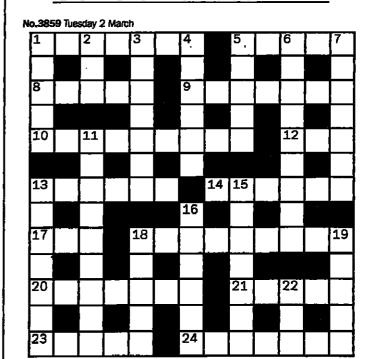
Brittas Emoire (2888821), 9.00 Red

Gang (98959024). 6.50 Polka Dot Shorts 198947289). 7.00 Practical Parenting (3726956). 7.05 Professor Bubble 1891647). 7.30 Caillou (6311111). 7.35 Bug Alert (7299043), 7.55 Practical Parenting (9314005). 8.00 Barney and Friends (9324482). 8.25 Babaloos (1713821). 8.30 Tiny Tales (3598802). 8.35 Tiny and Crew (4428840). 8.50 Practical Parenting (8962869). 9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (8649208), 9.30 The Roseanne Show -Highlights (7519192). 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show (9857956), 10.50 Maury Povich (3256734), 11.40 Brookside (23613956). 12.30 Animal Rescue (21958753). **12.40** Rescue 911 (51608686). **1.10** Special Babies (39244192). **1.40** Beyond Belief: (60709550). **2.10** LA Law (1131531). 3.40 Living Room (8976821). 4.00 Michael Cole (2684173) 4.50 Rolon da (9815444) 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook (6500463) 6.15 The Jerry Springer Show (1261869), 7.05 Rescue 911 (40123 7.35 Animal Rescue (7945)73), 8.40 Mau ry Povich (2727227). 9.00 Film: Saved by the Light (2824802). **11.00** Sex Life Down Under (7883550). **12.00** Close.

9.00 The Angry Hills (1959) (33299666). 11.00 The Roaring Twenties (1939) (23112802). **1.00** Eye of the Devil (1967) (45777593). **2.45** The Hill (1965) (22114796). **5.00** Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Jenny (2314), 7.30 Grace Under Fre (5753), 8.00 Ellen (8734), 8.30 Newsradio (7869). 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey (47802), 9.30 Whose Line is it Anyway (78821). 10.00 Frasier (31802). 10.30 Cheers (40550). 11.00 Seinfeld (59647). 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (18537). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (88086), 1.00 Taxi (25680), 1.30 Frontline (79999). 2.00 Dr Katz (58067). 2.30 Tibs and Fibs (37574). 3.00 Nightstand (12116). 3.30-4.00 Abbott & Costello (51154).

CONCISE CROSSWORD



DOWN

Reject (5) Part of play (3)

ACROSS More incisive (7)

Reddish-coloured horses (5) Up to the time of (5) Digit (7) 10 Nerve pain (9) 12 Fish (3)

13 Port worker (6) 14 Wheedle (6) 17 Meadow (3)

Assessment of resources (5.4) 20 Contradict (7) 21 Recess (5) 23 Big cat (5) 24 Declaimed (7)

Throb (7) Go back on promise (6) Latin American dance (5) Landing area (9) Possible to solve (7) Endless (9) Joy (7) 15 Poisonous element (7) 16 Solicitor, e.g. (6) 18 Niggard (5) 19 Part of step (5) 22 Domestic pet (3)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Wince, 4 Apprise (Wins a prize), 8 Antacid, 9 Icing, 10 Hyena, 11 Corsair, 13 Iota, 15 Revamp, 17 Tavern, 20 Ache, 22 Encide, 24 Radii, 20 Fin-up, 27 Embrace, 28 Royalty, 29 Canoc, DOWN: 1 Weather, 2 Nirce, 3 Enclaim, 4 Abduet, 5 Prior, 6 Imitate, 7 Eager, 12 Oath, 14 Opal, 16 Vacancy, 18 Aerobic, 19 Naivete, 21 Celety, 22 Taper, 23 Impel, 25 Drain.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

DEC: N WELAND As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsine 6.30 (47), 9.30 Making a Differ-ence (8)4531), 8.40 Workers at War (16889), 10.40 Spottight (737043), 10.40 Firm: The Naked Gun 33 1/3; the Final insult (6835647) 12.00 Firm: Crazy People (920316), 1.25 BBC News 24 (35891715).

REG1 SCOTLAND
As ESC1 London except: 12.30
As ESC1 London except: 12.45 Trean SeurDotaman (82768753): 12.45 Trean SeurDotaman (82768753): 12.45 Trean SeurDotaman (82768753): 6.00
ts (Enchanted Lands) (2848395): 6.00 us (enonamed Lands) (2846355) News (85) 10.00 Frontine Scotland (2253), 10.30 Film: The Naked Gun 33 173: the Final Insult (6839453) 11.50 Film: Crazy People (429395) 1.35 Johns BBC News 24 (28565512)

As BEC1 Lendon except: 6,30
White Today 17, 9,30 Week in Week
Out (18840), 10,00 The Next Files
Out (18840), 10,00 The Next Files
(50821), 10,30 Workers at War (737043),
10,40 Film: The Naked Gun 31/3; the
Filmi Insur (5835647), 12,00 Film: Grazy
Peggle (2013105, 1,25 Film: January PECT WALKS People (9703116) 1.25 Film: Jersed (73705999).

ANOLIA As Conton except: 12.20 Angla News and Weather (7628802) 1.00 Shortland Street (7257956) 1.35 Home and Away (35008685). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (5777260). 3.20 Anglia News and Weather (4153043). 6.00 Anglia News (63). 6.30 About Anglia (43). 7.30 Out to Lunch with Brian Turner (27). 10.30 Anglia News and Weather (498685). 10.40 Driving Ambition - a Season with Eddie Jordan (2569109). 11.45 Michweek Kick-Off (971647). 12.45 The Haunted Fishtank (53319). 1.15 Highlander (901319). 2.15 Judge Judy (2432832). 3.00 Wish You Were Here...? (12601390). 3.25 Dead Men's Tales (12611777). 3.55 Nationwide Football League Extra Nationwide Football League Extra (9556951). 4.50 Nightscreen (1542628).

As Cariton except: 1.00 Heart of the Country (55918) 3.20 Central Ne (4153043), 5.10 Shortland Street (4153043). 5.30 Snortland Street (7235937). 6.00 Home and Away (597208). 6.25 Central News (267444). 7.30 Thirty Minutes (27). 10.30 Central News (498685). 11.40 Central Sports Special (166314). 4.35 Jobinsor (2017200). (6305796). 5.20 Asian Eye (3775086).

HTV WALES AS Cartton except: 10.30 This Mom-ing (44992192). 1.00 Shortland Street (55918). 1.30 Home and Away (80043). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (5777260).

5:10 A Country Practice (7235837), 6:00 Home and Away (597208), 6:25 Wales Tonight (267444), 7:30 Fishlock's Wild Tracks (27), 10:30 HTV News (498685). Traces (27) The Big Match: UEFA Champions League Special (606802), 12.10 Tales from the Derkside (9238406), 12.45 The Haunted Fishtank (53319), 1.15 Highlander 901319), 245 Judge Judy (2432932). 3.00 Wish You Were Here...? (12801390). 3.25 Dead Men's Tales (12611777), 3.55 Nationwide Football League (9656951). 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (1542628).

As HTV Wales except: 6.25 HTV West Westher (80378), 6.30 The West Tonight (43), 7.30 West Eye View (27), 12.10 Pleasure Guide (301475), 12.40 Tales from the Darkside (8267932). MERIDIAN

As Cariton except: 10.30 This Morning (44992192). 12.15 Mendian News and Waginer Manager 1 ng (44982*92), 1235 Meridian News and Weather (4480734), 1,00 Shortland Stret (7257956), 1,35 Home and Away (35008585), 2,00 The Jerry Springer Show (5777250), 3,20 Meridian News and Weather (453043), 5,50 Home and Away (7235937), 5,37 Three Minutes (228866), 6,00 Meridian Tonight (63), 6,30 Surprise Chefs (43), 7,30 Wildite

SOS (27), 10-30 Meridian News (498685), 12.15 Pier Pressure (54048), 12.45 The Haunted Fishtank (53319), 1.15 Highlander (901319), 2.15 Judge Judy (2432932), 3.00 Wish You Were Here...? (12601390), 3.25 Dead Meris Tales (12011777), 3.55 Medical Legis Estre. Nationwide Football League Extra (9656951). 4.50 ITV Nightscreen 43390609). **5.00** Freescreen (77932). WESTCOUNTRY

As Cariton except: 10.30 This Morning (44992192). **12.15** Westcountry News (4480734). **12.27** Illuminations (7636821). 1.00 Emmerdale (55918). 3.20 West-country News (453043). 6.00 Westcountry Live (66463). 7.30 Stranger Than Fiction (27). 12.15 Power Game (54048). 12.45 The Haunted Fishtank (53319). 1.15 Highlander (901319). 2.15 Judge Judy (2432932). 3.00 Wish You Were Here...? (12601390), 3.25 Dead Men's Tales (12611777), 3.55 Football League Extra (9656951), 4.50 Nightscreen (1542928).

ORKSHIRE As Carlton except: 10.30 This Moming (44992192) 1.00 Home and Away (4143531) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4532550) 2.10 Coronation Street (965)208), **3.20** Calendar News (453043), **5.40** News (372598), **5.55**

Calendar (925821), **6.30** Tonight (43), **7.30** Missing (27), **10.30** Calendar News (498685), **4.15** Jobfinder (1250681), TYNE TEES As Yorkshire except: 3.20 North East News (453043) 5.55 North East Weather (208802), 6.00 North East Toright (66463), 7.30 Grundy Goes... (27).

10.30 North East News (498685).

As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Be-witched (974482), 12.30 Sesame Street (26279666), 1.00 Planed Plant (67216260), 1.30 The Three Stooges (37889550), **1.50** Film: The Lamp Still Burns* (78308753), **4.30** Ricki Lake Burns* (78308753). 4.30 Rickl Lake (67557463). 5.00 Planed Plant: Uned 5 (90549289). 5.30 Countdown (67571043). 6.00 Newyddion (93397376). 6.30 Heno (86887579). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (90552753). 7.30 Newyddion (67558192). 8.00 Y Sipe Gelf (90538173). 8.30 Pendelf (90557208). 9.00 To the Ends of the Earth (37709314). 10.00 Brookside (72014666). 10.35 Cueer as Folk (52625260). 11.45 Dayz Unlimited (38791685). 11.45 Carry On Darkly (38791685) 11.45 Carry On Darkly (11479598) 12.45 Journeys into the Ou

side with Jarvis Cocker (90016241). 1.45

MEGITY - / JEZICALI - : ZALENIO - : :

TELEVISION REVIEW their favourite songs, culminating with one man's, mellow

BBC

28 Children's BBC: Playdays (R) (S) (8837444), 3,45
The Enchanted Lands – the Adventures of the Wishing Chair (R) (S) (5482396), 3.56 Hububb (S) (T) (912227), 4.10 Chipmunks Go to the Movies (R) (S) (T) (5574596), 4.35 The Resity Wild Show (S) (T) (341647), 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (4176173), 5.10 Grange Hill (S) (T) (9863260).

Neighbours. Bouncer celebrates his 21st birthday, but Harold Isn't Invited to the party as their bitter feud rumbles on (S) (T) (484918).

7.00 Holiday. Six teenage girls enjoy their first parent-free holiday in Benidorm (S) (7) (7444).

first direct

free

banking...

the wrong bank

OSE UP (930pm BBC2, right) In Hollywood it is possible make a living as a screenwriter without a single one of your ipts ever being made into a film, a strange state of affairs to the court hand in the state of affairs.

year. aining film that Player than

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

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The the series of

don't enjoy

t1.20 IIIM Grazy People (Tony Bill 1890 US). Supposed comedy with Dudley Moore and Daryl Hannah. Dud lives up to his name as a copywriter who is sectioned after writing ads which purport to tell the truth, while Hannah is his hippy chick fellow inmate. It's really not very good. At all (S) (T) (650043).

12.45 IIIM Jinxed! (Don Siege! 1992 US). Siege!'s last film is a dreadful mess starring Be:te Midler as a harlot plotting to murder her husbend (S) (T) (609241). Joins BBC News 24 (58085680). To 6am.

BBC2

6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Someone called Uncle Philip struggles to remain calm (R) (S) (T) (693482).

Hearthreak High. More from the Sydney schoolkids Tyan tries to be more competitive, while young Lee biays Cupid to his parents (5) (T) (917937).

10.20 Coming Clean - the Truth ab (S) (T) (23911).

10.30 Newsnight. With Chopper Paxman (T) (175192).

7.10 Children's BBC: The O Zone (S) (T) (788918).

me Front in the Garden. Another garden ansformed from concrete jungle to modernist me park (S) (T) (1005).

9.30 <u>BTIDIR3</u> Close Up. Film following four British people who have given up their old lives to try to become screenwriters in Hollywood. See *Documentary of the Day*, below (S) (T) (164686).

7.30 From the Edge. How disabled people fare in terms of welfare reform and the level of service that deaf people receive in the theatre (8) (T) (73).

ur Money or Your Life. New series presented by incisi expert Aivin Hall that offers shrewd advice on idling personal finance (S) (T) (3869).

Peak Practice. Derbyshire doctors. There is a new face at The Beeches in another unchallenging edition of the syrupy GPs drama (S) (T) (9385).

lews; Weather (T) (57227)

10,30

BIDDE Driving Ambition – a Season with Eddie Jordan. A portrait of Eddie Jordan filmed during the year of Jordan's first ever win on the Grand Prix circuit. See *Profile of the Day*, below (S) (T) (28192). The Big Match: Uefa Chempions' League Special. A preview of tomorrow's mouth-watering metch between Manchester United and Inter Milan (184260).

The Haunted Fishtank (54048). 12.45 Highlander (R) (904408). 1.45 Judge Judy (S) (966724). 2.25 Wish You Were Here...? (R) (S) (T) (9696067). 2.50 Dead Men's Teles (R) (8173951). 3.15 Nationwide Football League Extra (914883). 4.16 ITV Nightscreen (1250661). 5.30 ITN Morning News (10086). To 6am. 3.35 Off Key (93403947). 4.00 Schools' Programmes (29932). To 6am.

DO GMTV (5155869). 9.25 Trisha (S) (T) (8387598). 10.30 This Morning (T) (57945869). 12.20 Your Shout (7628802). 12.30 News; Weather (T) (58444). 1.00 London Today (T) (55918). 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (6192111). 2.15 Home and Awsy (S) (T) (86395). 2.45 Wheel of Fortune (S) (T) (859686). 3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (4123802). 3.20 London Today (T) (4153043).

Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (4143666). **3,35** Rosie and Jim (S) (9187531). **3.50** The Wombles (S) (5474376). **4.00** Rupert (R) (6560395). **4,26** Mike and Angelo (S) (T) (5857821). **4,50** How II (S) (T) (3798591).

News, Weather (T) (980127).

London Tonight. Regional news update for the cepital and the South-East (T) (63).

12<u>1</u>5 #10 Journeys Into the Outside with Jarvis Cocker, Cocker visits Mexico (T) (514802).

2.10 IIIII French Dressing (Ken Russell 1964 UK).
Missable comedy of a deck-chair attendant (2489357).

Carlton

6,00 Sesame Street (73424), 7.00 The Big Breakfast (43173), 9.00 Schools' Programmes (596043), 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (7666), 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (47840), 12.30 Bewitched (R) (S) (T) (89314), 1.00 Pet Rescue (S) (T) (46260), 1.30 Australia Wild (R) (T) (3244856),

2.05 IIIM The Oklahoma Kid (Lloyd Bacon 1939 US). Uneven, if unusual frontier adventure set during the time of the Oklahoma land rush. The film's curiosity value springs from the presence of Humphrey Bogart and James Cagnay as they make a rare excursion into westerns (T) (6289686).

Home and Away (S) (T) (7235937).

3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (21). 4.00 Fillesh to One (T) (56). 4.30 Countdown (T) (3438314). 4.85 Ricki Lake (T) (5546005).

Pet Rescue. Following two young seels at the RSPCA centre at East Winch in Norfolk (T) (92).

Good Stuff. Entertainment and the arts - Rowland Pivron and Wendy Douglas field the press releases (S) (43).

Emmerdale. Scott pleads with the fair Mandy Dingle (S) (T) (6840).

First Edition. What happens to rbandoned bables after they are found? If they aren't collected within six weeks, the person who handed them in gets to keep them, apparently (27).

8.00 Brookside. Matt and Bosko "cause a stink" on the parade (T) (9802). 7.55 The 1999 Citibank Private Bank Photography Prize. The work of Paul M Smith (1) (556531).

B.30 Classio British Cars. The story of Rover's jet cars – designed at the kitchen table and modelled with papier mâché, so they tell us (1) (8937).

9.00 The Coroner. The third of four films focusing on Birmingham City Coroner's of fice – just to clear up any potential confusion, they deal with ordinary citizens too, just fatelities among the footbal team. In tonight's episod two Muslim girls have been tragically killed in a hit-and-n road accident, and their families want the bodies release quickly in accordance with Muslim tradition (1) (7837).

10.00 Father Ted. Dougal and Ted enter the Eurosong compatition – again (R) (S) (T) (55869).

Queer se Folk. A more reflective, less cocksure second instalment of the gay-men-in-Manchester series. This week, Stuert, the unsympathetic lead character, is pursued by young Nathan (T) (180280).

[9][0][3] Un Coeur en Hiver (Claude Sautel 1982 Fr). Romantic drama about the relationship between a young woman, her lover and his business partner. See Film of the Day, below (1) (467067).

F THE DAY

DRIVING AMBITION (10.40pm ITV) Screened as a taster for the new Formula One season which opens this weekend. "A Season with Eddie Jordan" is more than just an engaging profile from director Amanda Rudman. This is thanks mainly to its subject, a likable man who describes himself as "a hustler". Jordan (right) emerges as a candid and open man who operates with relatively limited resources and few of the advantages of the richer teams. It follows the team in its 1988 season, with Britain's former World Champion Damon Hill (far right) attempting to secure for the Jordan team its first ever win. Of interest even to non-motor racing fans.



PROFILE C

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FILM OF THE DAY

UN COEUR EN HIVER (12.15am C4) Claude Sautet directed his first film in 1955, but achieving the nuance and detail evident in works such as this clearly takes time as he has only directed 13 other films since – most recently the well-received Nelly and Monsieur Arnaud. Stephane and Maxime (Daniel Auteuil and André Dussollier) are partners in a violin-making business, with the introverted Stephane very much the passive partner. When Maxime's lover, Camille (Emmanuelle Beard, right), falls in love with Stephane, it threatens a delicate



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US). "Touching" (have I given it ewey already?) made-for-television drama starring Mellssa Gilbert-Brinkman as a shy young woman who clitches her architect boyfriend (classy touch, that), but can't so easily jettison his son (T) (6885799).

6.20 Sunset Beach. American comedy series. Carmen tells Maria that she will get her memory back before the new year (S) (T) (3976192).

6.00 100 Per Cent. Game show (S) (2649395).

Dishes. Not to put too finer point on it, if this "dish" was your dinner, you'd throw it in the bin. An unappetising mix of romance and cookery (1) (55).

Int. DIY sticom (S) (T) (85).

Family Affairs. "Nick, remembering what Pete did to Maria, Iries to find out from Claire what happened" Your guess is as good as mine (S) (T) (2630847).

7.00 & News, including First on Five. News on the hoof with the expensive Kirsty Young (S) (T) (9376802)

7.30 Champions of Nature. One man has dedicated his life to protecting the natural hebitat of the grizzly bears in western Canada – meet him (S) (T) (2629531).

8.30 Car Wars - What's the Story? Assorted motor-related hazards, including dangerous driving, speed humps and "car cruising" - whatever that is (5) (8304685) 6.00 Crime Report. John Taylor Investigates the growing trade in counterfeiting which has now moved on to bogus tea-bags (9386550).

9.00 EILLE Memphis Beile (Michael Catori-Jones 1990 UK). Matthew Modine and John Lithgow star in this so-so Second World War drama based around the endangered young crew of the titular bomber. The action is centred around an American airbase in England and it is to the picture's credit that it evades most of the dramatic mentreps inherent in that chronically overused scenario. Modine, meanwhile, tan't

11.00 Two. Psychological thriler series about a young professor at Washington University (S) (2754821).

TELEVISION GUIDE BY PETER CONCIDE